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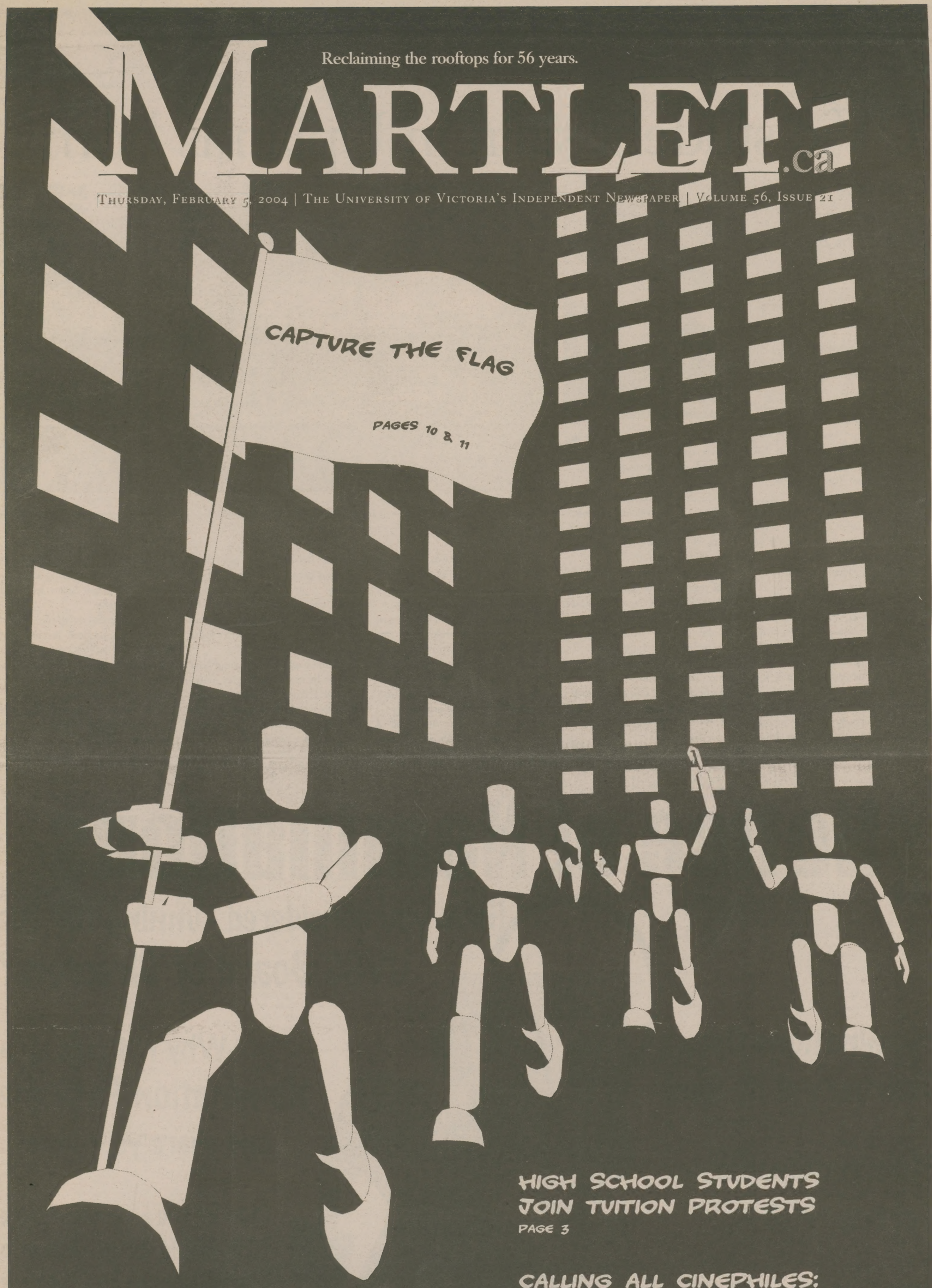
Thursday, February 5, 2004 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | Volume 56, Issue 21



Graham Stark graphic

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS JOIN TUITION PROTESTS
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CALLING ALL CINEPHILES: INDY FILM FEST HITS TOWN
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UVIC SPORTS FACILITIES ARE A CRUMBLING, DECREPIT MESS
PAGE 17

UVic student slain in Uplands home

Police still interviewing suspects in homicide investigation

BY PATRICK WHITE

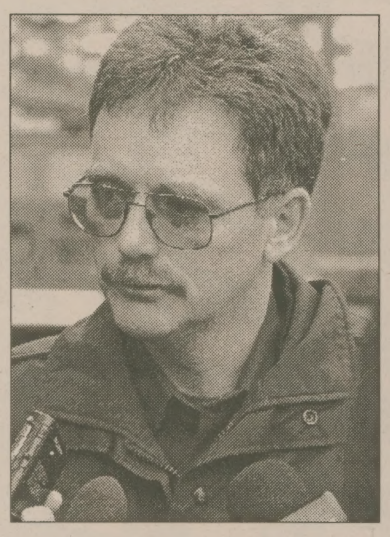
Oak Bay Police launched a homicide investigation early Sunday morning into the death of a 21-year-old UVic student.

Fourth-year Business and Economics major Terry McLean was discovered dead in the living room of 3145 Humber St. at 3:30 Sunday morning by one of the tenants of the posh waterfront Uplands residence.

Ambulance crews responding shortly after were unable to revive the victim. Based on the state of the house and the body, Oak Bay Police immediately deemed the case a homicide.

Oak Bay Sgt. Bert Vermeer said that there were no signs of forced entry at the house, but the living room showed evidence of a struggle. "Not all the table lamps were standing on the tables. Let's put it that way," he said.

Police recovered a murder weapon but did not specify what, saying only it was not a gun. Oak Bay Police, with assistance from Saanich Police, are currently interviewing all tenants of the rental house as well as neighbours. "We haven't ruled out anyone," said Vermeer.



Sgt. Bert Vermeer said the living room where the victim was found showed signs of a struggle.

Police denied public access to the three properties on Humber Rd. and had an officer keeping away onlookers on the beach side of the house. "In this type of investigation you investigate everything. From the street right to the house, to the crime scene," Vermeer said.

Vermeer said the crime scene investigation is still ongoing, so the body may remain at the scene for a number of days.

NIC HUME PHOTOS

Police kept curious onlookers well away from 3145 Humber after the body of one of its residents was discovered early Sunday morning.

Though the victim was a tenant of the house, the resident who made the initial call to police did not immediately recognize the body.

Neighbours reacted to the news of the homicide with shock and curiousity. "It's bizarre, especially in this community," said prominent Victoria lawyer Michael O'Connor, who lives directly across the street from the ribboned-off property.

O'Connor awoke to the sound of sirens at around 3:45 a.m. "I was worried because I've got three teenagers here and they were all out driving."

Another neighbour reported he had heard a loud, violent argument on Humber St. between two males on Friday night.

O'Connor said another neighbour came to his house on Sunday morning and claimed he heard a suspicious noise early in the morning. "He said he heard a 'thud,' or a sharp noise just after three (a.m.)."

Police scoured the neighbourhood at around 8:30 a.m., asking area residents if they had heard any loud noises that night.

The residence overlooks Spoon Bay, where a property recently sold for $2.2 million. O'Connor expects that other neighbours heard something. "These houses all face the bay, so the sound really carries," he said.

UVic officials said they had not been contacted in connection with the death.

Notice of Nominations

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News briefs

Throne speech falls short on funding

Paul Martin's speech from the throne on Feb. 2 vaguely outlined his promises as new prime minister. Martin said health care and education were his two top priorities. For post-secondary institutions, no new money was promised. As federal Minister of Finance in the mid-1990s, Martin made major cuts to colleges and universities–cuts leading to increased corporate involvement and higher tuition fees.

Martin said he will increase students loans and promised grant money for low-income students, "to cover a portion of the tuition cost of the first year of post-secondary education."

–Sarah Petrescu

UBC fudges numbers for *Maclean's*

Documents obtained by the *National Post* through the Freedom of Information Act recently revealed top administrators may have purposely limited class-size enrollment to gain a higher rating in the *Maclean's magazine* annual university survey.

Many prospective students rely upon the popular survey to choose which university to attend, something political analyst Norman Spector said leave UBC open to fraud charges.

UBC Administration did not comment upon the allegations at the time of publication.

–Sarah Petrescu

Stronach student-friendly

In an otherwise bland speech at a popular Montreal club last week, federal Conservative candidate Belinda Stronach made a few friends among post-secondary students.

Stronach announced that she would make tuition payments tax deductible–an announcement that drew significant applause from the scattered young people in the crowd who had been quiet until that point.

–Dave Weatherall (CUP)

Big ol' rally for lower tuition

BY PATRICK WHITE

Like many grade 12 students, Jaya Ceeley wants to go to university.

But every year costs are becoming more of a consideration. To afford university, Ceeley will have to work part-time through his final semester of high school.

"Lots of high school students want to go, but they won't be in a position to afford first year," said the Victoria High student about the increasing costs of attending university.

That's why Ceeley stood among about 2,000 fellow students who marched, chanted and waved placards through Victoria's downtown on Wednesday, Feb. 4, as part of a national Day of Action against rising tuition fees.

Students from UVic, Camosun and local high schools gathered at Centennial Square, where a dozen police officers watched the growing crowd. Also present was Carol James, the new leader of the provincial NDP. "I wanted to be here as a leader and as a parent," she said. "I have a kid at UVic."

Once assembled, the crowd followed the lead of Scott Payne, event MC and UVic Students' Society director of services, who yelled through a bullhorn, "Let's go tell Gordon Campbell what we think."

The group marched down Government St., then up Menzies past the premier's office, chanting, "Gordo's got to go" and "Education is a right."

The front lawn of the legislature was deemed too swampy for the protestors., so the crowd assembled behind the Legislature instead.

Payne was joined on a stage assembled on the rear steps by other student and academic representatives.

The final speaker, political science professor Radhika Desai, said that B.C. underfunds post-secondary education compared to other provinces. "We should be asking not only for a fee reduction, but an increase in funding that puts us on par with other jurisdictions," she said in an interview prior to her speech.

"Education has become more corporatized and more commodified. This is happening right across the board in health, in arts and culture, and in post-secondary education," she added.

A performance by the band Better Rhetoric followed the speeches.

Many students are skeptical of the effectiveness of protests like the Day of Action, but Payne said he hoped the rally would alert voters to issues surrounding post-secondary education. "With government it's more a matter of placing pressure on them. If voters are aware of what's happening in post-secondary education, then the province does not have a choice but to take notice of the crisis that's happening in post-secondary education in B.C."

He believes the provincial government is trying to get out of post-secondary education altogether. "This government wants to move to a user-pay system. They want to abdicate responsibility for the post-secondary system and put it on students and taxpayers."

The Day of Action took place on university and college campuses across the country, but national attendance numbers were unavailable at press time.

The Ministry of Advanced Education refused to comment on the rally.

NIC HUME PHOTO

The Day of Action attracted students from UVic, Camosun College and local high schools.

Is there an echo in here?

Lines programmed into UVSS brains

BY GRAHAM STARK

In preparation for the Feb. 4 National Day of Action, the UVSS Board of Directors spent a couple hours on Monday night practicing their lines.

During what was called a "media practice," UVSS spokespeople ran over their concise "message box," the sound bite they planned to deliver to the media.

The basic message runs as follows: "Post-secondary is in a state of crisis. Students are being forced to pay for reckless tax cuts through skyrocketing tuition fees, and we need provincial funding to ensure British Columbians can get the education we need in today's economy," said UVSS Chair Jude Coates in an e-mail to the political action committee.

The meeting began with some deliberation regarding whether the message should read "post-secondary is in crisis" or "a state of crisis," when Director of Services Scott Payne was corrected by Director of Finance Joanna Groves after apparently misreading the statement.

Without wanting to "lay the smack-down," Groves then got the meeting back on track to avoid further "wordsmithing," as she put it, of the board's message.

One member advised the committee that they "don't have to answer any question the media throws at you," and suggested that if they were "in doubt, just answer with the message box." At one point he got to his feet and, brandishing a juice bottle, said, "I'm a reporter, here's my camera, what're you going to say?" to a weary Scott Payne. Payne jovially replied, "I'm going to fucking break your camera and beat your head in with it."

This was followed with much laughter and comments on a good lesson of what not to do.

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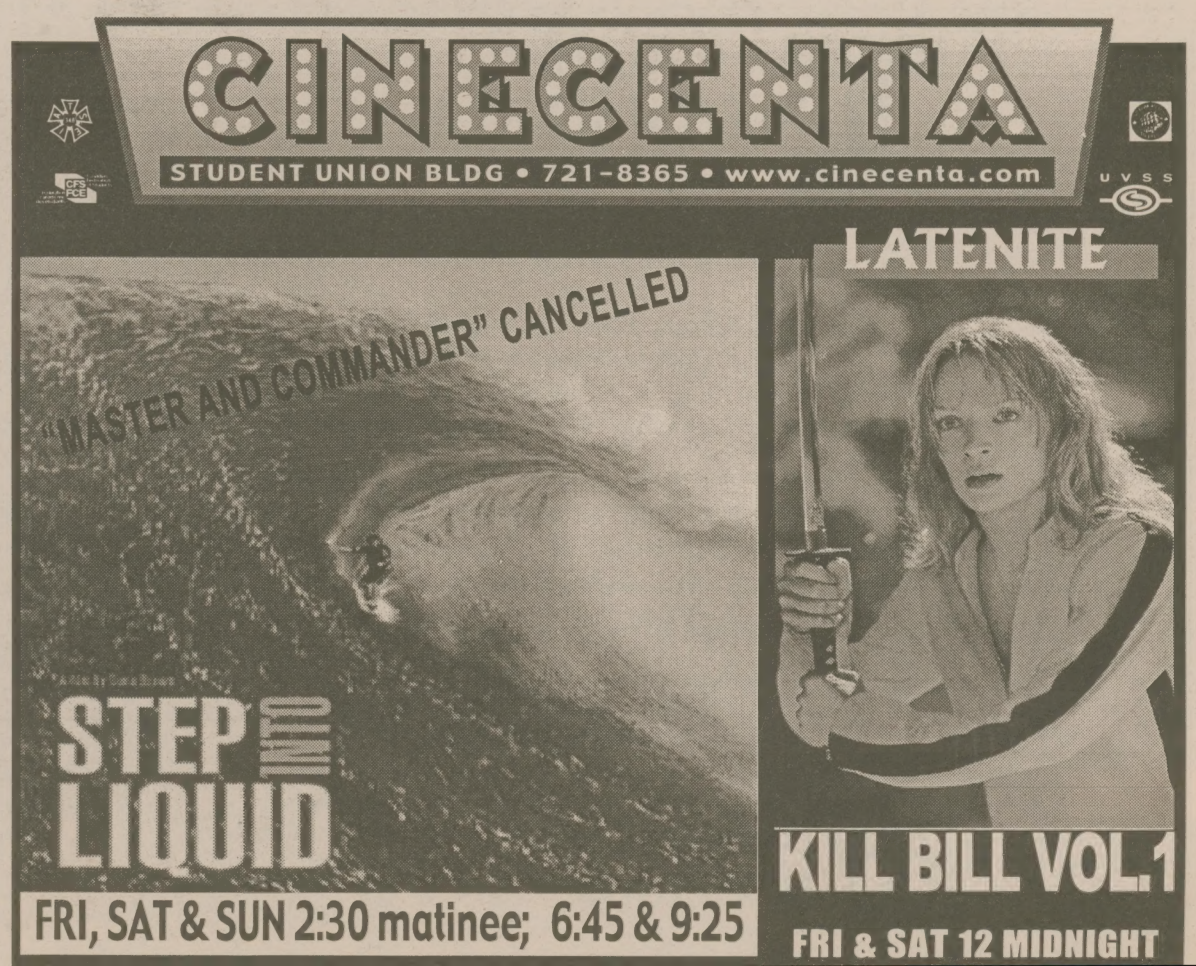


Sexual assault victims win review

The University of Saskatchewan agrees to an external review of safety on campus

by Sarah Petrescu

A young woman who was sexually assaulted at the University of Saskatchewan last November has won a victory in changing campus safety measures after months of petitioning and criticizing the university's response to her attack.

The U of S has agreed to an external review of campus safety after several women were assaulted at the university over past year. The decision comes after considerable outcry from the victims and their families.

"I want to see protocols in place for when these things happen," said Eden, who does not want to disclose her last name for fear of being identified by her attacker who remains at-large.

"I want to see preventative measures," she said, adding that surveillance cameras would deter and help identify potential offenders. "I never want another person to go through what I went through."

Eden was on campus studying on the night she was assaulted. She was grabbed by her attacker while entering a main bathroom and dragged to a smaller, usually-locked private bathroom where she was brutally assaulted.

"I was shocked and scared, both by what was happening and because I didn't know where I was," she said.

"I instinctively fought back, ripping off two fingernails in the process. With one hand on my mouth and one on my neck, which even days later left a mark, he started to strangle me. I reached a point too great of fear and too great of stress to even move."

The assault left Eden with a fractured wrist and vaginal bleeding. She was unable to identify her attacker because he turned out the lights before she could see him and there were no witnesses to the assault.

Although Eden is grateful for the assistance she received that night from campus security, she was disappointed with the university's immediate handling of the assault.

"Neither the police nor the university contacted me and my family to offer us guidance and assistance," she said. "We had only one phone call from the university president, Peter McKinnon, over a week after the incident and it was less than a minute long."

After the assault, Eden and her family requested a mass e-mail be sent to warn students of a sexual predator-at-large. The e-mail was sent after the weekend, leaving plenty of time for rumours to circulate campus, said Eden. She also said the e-mail downplayed the incident, referring to it as an "alleged" assault, warning students to be "extra vigilant" and underlining the campus safety record.

"It hurt that they used those words, as if saying I could've done more. What, should I not go to the bathroom?" said Eden. "I was not an 'alleged' victim. What happened to me was very real."

Janice LaVoie, community safety manager at the U of S, said the university handled the incident responsibly and continues to do so. "We immediately made changes, adding more patrollers on foot, and continue to do so. The safety of our campus is a great concern for us," said LaVoie.

Eden and her family gained assistance from the Saskatoon Sexual Assault Centre and the U of S Women's Centre, who put her in touch with the mother, Liz, of another recent victim of on-campus sexual assault. Liz was also disappointed by the university's response to the attack and lobbied for changes to safety measures and protocol.

"She inspired me to work with her and make some positive changes out of this horrible event," said Eden.

With the support of campus groups, both victims and their families began to lobby the school for changes.

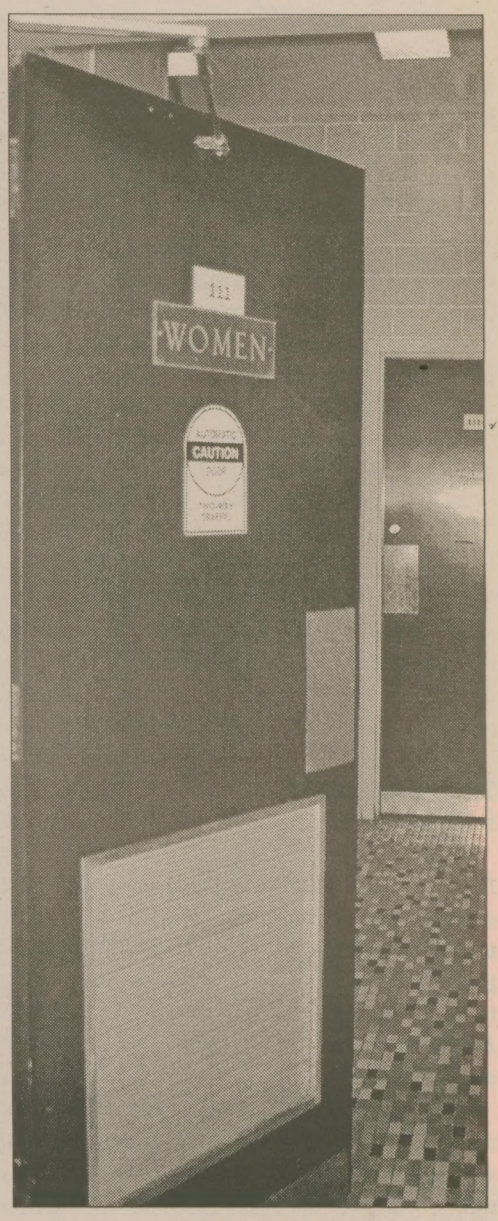
A petition for the external review garnered over 1,000 signatures. Public forums and press conferences were held and the U of S Students' Union agreed to create a Victim Advocate Position.

The external review will assess the university's safety standards in comparison with other schools across the country and is set to be released in March.

"Reports of sexual assault are extremely rare on campus," said LaVoie, prior to the university's agreement to the review. "The last two incidents are tragic and regrettable circumstances, but the fact these incidents are so rare is a good thing."

Jana Berman photos

A student walks across campus at the University of Saskatchewan.



The internal washroom, where one woman was assaulted, was not locked the night of her attack.

According to a study published in the *Canadian Journal of Sociology* in 1993, 20 per cent of women on college and university campuses said they "gave in to unwanted sexual intercourse because they were overwhelmed by a man's continued arguments and pressure."

Several universities across Canada have complaint-driven sexual assault protocols aiming to increase awareness of under-reported assaults on campus. Carleton University implemented a sexual assault protocol in 1996. Since then, Ottawa-Carleton Police Service holds the highest rate of reported sexual offences in the province, at 280 per 100,000 people.

At the University of Victoria, a sexual assault protocol exists between campus security, the Open UVic Sexual Assault Centre and several other campus services. Reports of assault are coordinated between the groups, whether the victim chooses to report to police or not, for accurate awareness of safety on campus.

Fiona Pushka, personal safety co-ordinator for Campus Security, said "we are very much involved with prevention and dealing with assaults on campus."

In 2002–2003, five sexual assaults were reported to campus security, two of which occurred on the UVic campus.

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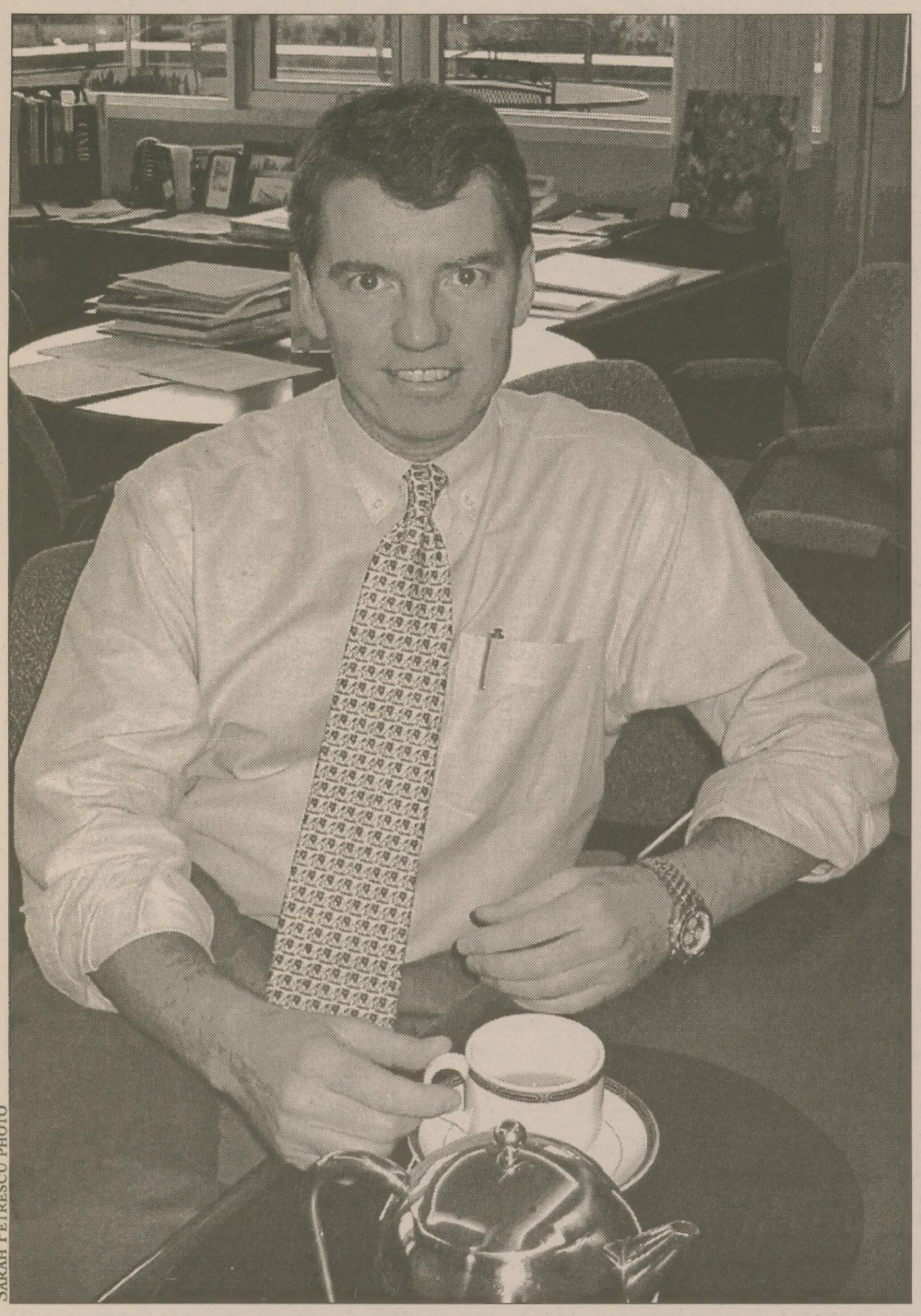
It's Turpin time . . . again



Sarah Petrescu photo

UVic President and Vice-Chancellor David Turpin strikes a pose during afternoon tea. He has recently been reappointed to head the university until 2010.

by Sarah Petrescu

As Dr. David H. Turpin pours himself a cup of tea from a sleek stainless-steel teapot in his bright, roomy office, he exudes the air of someone who really likes his job. It's a good thing, since Turpin has just been reappointed to a second five-year term as the University's president and vice-chancellor.

"I feel so fortunate to be here. This is such a great university and really the best job anyone could ask for," said Turpin.

Turpin's reappointment came as no surprise. Earlier this year he received a $26,000 raise from the university–a clear sign they want him sticking around. Turpin said he wasn't losing sleep during the review period.

"I'm so busy I didn't spend a lot of time thinking about it," he said.

The decision to reappoint Turpin was reached unanimously by the UVic Board of Governors, following an in-depth performance review by a selection committee and consultation with community members.

"The University is fortunate to have a leader who is recognized internationally as an outstanding scholar and has proven himself to be a dynamic administrator capable of developing consensus and respect even while making tough decisions in difficult times," said board chair Eric Donald.

Turpin came to UVic in 2000 from a dean of arts position at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. At 44, he became one of the youngest university presidents in the country with a reputation for being a business minded go-getter.

At Queen's the phrase "Turpin time" was used to express his ability to rouse people into action. Victoria-Hillside MLA Sheila Orr once described him as "looking like a Kennedy," and defying the stodgy image of administrators with his quick enthusiasm and trademark toothy grin.

Turpin's arrival at UVic was hailed by local media as a homecoming of one of the Island's brightest. Turpin, born in Duncan and raised partly in Esquimalt, was referred to as a "good ol' Island boy." An accomplished oceanographer, botanist and administrator, Turpin posed a double threat as a prolific academic and a shrewd executive.

Not everyone opened their arms to Turpin four years ago. Summer McFayden, then president of the UVic Students' Society, said his track record at the fee-hiking Queen's was a warning indicator for UVic students.

"We're concerned he's going to bring the Ontario approach with him," said McFayden, referring to the cost-cutting Ontario Tory government, in a 2000 *Monday Magazine* article.

"But we're hoping he'll adjust to the British Columbia environment and the UVic environment," she said.

In the past two years tuition has gone up by 70 per cent at UVic. This spring, another 28 per cent tuition increase looms as administrators look to make up a $19 million budgetary shortfall. Turpin recognizes the tuition hikes are a dark cloud hanging over affordability and access to the university, two principles he said are key to him as president.

"I recognize that students have paid some significant increases, and they are not sustainable," said Turpin. "We want to ensure the education we provide is affordable. We are looking at cutting costs and are trying to convince the government to address funding reductions."

For the most part, Turpin's accomplishments at UVic are well-regarded. He is credited with the recruitment of accomplished faculty, innovative campus development, increased sponsored research and several corporate sponsorships. His helluva-nice-guy reputation is fed by frequent appearances at campus events and fundraising involvement.

"The cultural prosperity of the campus community is important to me," said Turpin. "Quality, capacity and affordability are the main components of my vision for the future of UVic."

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Of beetles and grandmothers

A timeline of the recent wear and tear on B.C.'s forests

Compiled by Jeff Andrew

Between wildfires, pine beetles and chainsaws, British Columbia's forests have seen a lot of upheaval in the past few months. Meanwhile, human conflict in and around the woods has risen to levels not seen since the large-scale protests and international boycotts of the early 1990s.

Summer
The mountain pine beetle infestation in north-central B.C., attributed to a combination of warm weather and decades of fire-suppression, spreads to epidemic proportions.

September 26
B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell announces that the government will consider logging in provincial parks to manage the mountain pine beetle outbreak.

October 7
B.C. Legislature opens for fall session. Protests against the B.C. Liberals' "Working Forest Initiative" are held across the province.

October 14
After being held in a Burnaby prison for four months, Betty Krawczyk is convicted of criminal contempt of court and sentenced to an additional six months in prison. Jen Bradley pled guilty to charges and was released in early July.

June 25
74 year-old Betty Krawczyk and 48 year-old Jen Bradley, both grandmothers, are arrested for blocking a logging road in the Upper Walbran Valley on Vancouver Island.

July/August
Forest fires rage across southern British Columbia, destroying thousands of homes and millions of hectares of forest.

August
A sawmill owned by Tolko Industries burns down in the Barriere-McLure fire, leaving the communites of Barriere and Louis Creek in jeopardy. Tolko announces that it will continue logging in the area but will not rebuild the mill.

October 2
In an attempt to stop Cattermole Timber from logging on unceded First Nations land in Elk Creek, near Chilliwack, local activists and members of the Cheam First Nation set up a blockade on CN Rail tracks.

October 10
The Vancouver Sun reports that raw log exports from B.C. reached a record high of 3.7 million cubic metres in 2002–enough wood to supply an estimated 3700 jobs in the forest industry.

October 24
Bill 46, the first stage of the Working Forest Initiative, passes 46–3.

November 22
The Industrial Wood and Allied Workers' Union (IWA), representing more than 10,000 coastal forest workers, begins a full-scale strike following a breakdown in contract re-negotiations.

November 29
A tree-sit is established at Elk Creek to block a new logging road being built through the forest. The move follows nearly two months of intense standoffs and violent confrontations between activists and loggers in the woods.

December 11
After several years of negotiation, participants in the Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plan reach a controversial "consensus" on land-use recommendations for the Central Coast rainforests.

December/January
On Dec. 23, the Elk Creek tree-sit is torn down by Cattermole workers. Activists complain of intimidation from loggers and lack of help from local RCMP. Meanwhile, the City of Chilliwack orders Cattermole to cease operations until a public hearing can be held.

November 5
Gordon Campbell embarks on a trade mission to China, hoping to open up new markets for B.C. timber. Environmental groups respond with ads in Chinese newspapers criticizing B.C. forest practises, sparking accusations of "eco-terrorism" from Minister of Forests Mike de Jong.

November 26
Canfor Corporation announces a merger with Slocan Forest Products Ltd., its largest competitor in north-central B.C. The new company will be the second largest timber company in the world, after Weyerhaeuser Co.

December 6
Canadian and U.S. negotiators reach a tentative, controversial agreement on softwood lumber: the U.S. will drop its duties and Canadian exporters will submit to a quota capping Canada's share of U.S. lumber markets at 31.5 per cent.

December 16
Provincial government passes emergency legislation forcing an end to the coastal forest strike. Workers return to their jobs under the terms of their old contract; both sides enter into mediation.

January 23
Nearly eight months after her arrest, Betty Krawczyk is released from prison on compassionate grounds to visit her son, who is suffering from cancer.

Great Bear agreement a cop-out says forest's founder

by Rebecca Peric

The Raincoast Conservation Society, an organization that single-handedly brought international attention to B.C.'s Great Bear Rainforest, has become the strongest opponent to an agreement that would save much of it.

On Dec. 11, 2003, the Central Coast Land and Resource Management Planning (CCLRMP) table, consisting of representatives from communities, labour, environmental groups, tourism, forest companies and recreation interests reached consensus on land-use recommendations for B.C.'s central coast, part of what is popularly known as the Great Bear Rainforest. Ian McAllister, conservation director for the Raincoast Conservation Society, said the agreement leaves much to be desired. "There's one voice for conservation and many voices for mining, timber, and business," he said.

McAllister, with wife Karen, introduced and named the area for the world with their bestselling 1997 publication *The Great Bear Rainforest.*

Although considered a major milestone towards a lasting resolution for B.C.'s coastal rainforests, the agreement is only a recommendation to governments and not a final decision.

The B.C. government has called the agreement unprecedented because it brought together such diverse interests as the Sierra Club, forest companies, and the IWA.

Jim Lornie, chair of the CCLRMP, was more upbeat. "I think this marks a real milestone that the table members and their caucuses were able to reach a significant agreement," he said. "There were some tense moments–but every participant at the table should be proud of the recommendations that we will be turning over to government."

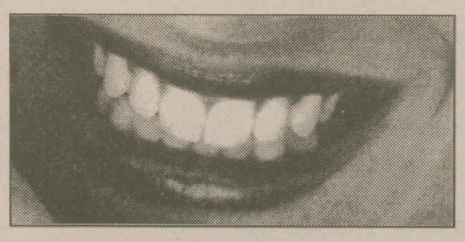
McAllister also isn't happy that only 32 per cent of the 1.2 million hectare forest will be protected. "The provincial government based their decision on science, but we got over a dozen scientists funded by the government, and the agreement that was made is far below the necessary requirement based on the science stating that 45–60 per cent of the coast needs to be protected," he said.

Many valleys, even those providing habitat to the world famous spirit bear, are still open for clearcut logging. "Five large intact valleys are clear cut under the plan. It shows how inadequate this is," McAllister said.

Not all environmental groups are opposed to the agreement. "We think it's an excellent step forward," said Amanda Carr, a spokesperson with the B.C. office of Greenpeace. "We're making a compromise for common stability. What becomes important is the type of logging done," she said.

Discussions between the province and First Nations groups will continue. They are expected to conclude sometime in June, after which a bill to finalize the land use plan goes before the legislature.

In the meantime, the Raincoast Conservation Society will be working on the science of the plan and looking into the animals' habitat to show how inadequate the protected areas are.

Welcome Back UVic Students!
TODAY'S DENTAL CENTRE

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Klein calls welfare cuts denial of human rights

Nic Hume photo

Seth Klein speaks out on welfare.

by Briony Smith

Seth Klein, B.C. Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), is speaking out against BC Liberal reforms of welfare, which may leave thousands without any income at the end of this month.

At a talk titled "Assessing the B.C. Welfare Cuts and the Two-Year Time Limits" held at UVic last week, Klein rallied students to prick their social consciences and take heed of the upcoming BC Liberal welfare cuts, which he said are a violation of basic human rights.

In 2002, the provincial government implemented a two-year limit on welfare recipients. Under the new rules, people on income assistance who are considered employable are limited to 24 months of assistance out of every five years. Thousands of people will get their final cheque or have their benefits reduced starting Feb. 26, 2004, when the first round of time-limited welfare recipients get cut off.

Klein acknowledged the difficulty for students to see how welfare cuts affect them. He said it is every person's right to be able to leave a bad job or a bad employer and have a social safety net, "Whether you're a pay cheque or two away, or even if you never have to use social assistance."

Standing beside a banner that read, "Justice Not Charity," Klein said. "We all have a stake in this."

Klein said the support systems assisting those in poverty have had to work hard to keep up with demand. He referred to a survey of the homeless population in Surrey, which showed a promising downturn until April of 2002, when the numbers of homeless people in the municipality began to steadily rise once more due to fund cuts. These numbers are expected to rise dramatically in April when the first two-year time limit is reached and, according to a leaked government document, approximately 29,000 people are projected to be cut off from receiving welfare, 3,500 of which reside on Vancouver Island.

Klein said it is important the provincial government eliminate the welfare reforms and institute better support systems. Eighty per cent of people are on social assistance for less than a year. The remaining 20 per cent are people who will suffer when the two-year limit comes up in April and are likely people with a record of difficulty finding long-term or meaningful employment.

One audience member, Jeff Larochelle, used to be on social assistance and was angered by the social assumption he was "lazy" or a "bum."

He suggested to Klein that it would be a better idea to campaign for a guaranteed livable income rather than fight welfare reform, so that people would not have to cope with the stigma of being on welfare. Klein agreed that people most often look at the personal problems of welfare recipients, rather than the structural problems of the system.

"Employment insurance, affordable housing, lack of jobs, and discrimination do not factor into this regime," said Klein, referring to the provincial government.

"It is a basic human right to have decent housing, food security, and a basic income. Even if you never have to turn to (welfare), you should be able to know that someone down the street who needs to, can."

Paris Peace Conference lingers today, says author

by Patrick White

Two years ago Margaret Macmillan could not get her book published in Canada. Last Thursday, she spoke to a standing-room-only crowd at UVic about that book, *Paris 1919: Six Days That Changed the World*, which has since become a worldwide bestseller and award-winner.

She also spoke about the present-day consequences of the 1919 Paris Peace Conference that ended the First World War.

"Making peace is a lot harder than waging war," said Macmillan of current events in Iraq and Afghanistan, reiterating what her great-grandfather David Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister during the First World War, said during negotiations at the 1919 Paris Peace Conference.

The leaders of the world's most powerful nations, Britain, France, America and Italy, met in Paris following the First World War to hammer out the conditions of their victory. Over the six-month conference, the leaders carved up international boundaries, restricted Germany's armed forces and established the ill-fated League of Nations.

Macmillan compared the Paris Peace Conference to current world affairs. "You had all of the world's most powerful people sitting down with each other for six months," she said. "That would never happen now. Public pressure around the world would not allow that now. International meetings today, such as the G7, are like a choreographed ice dance, perhaps with the same corrupt judges."

She paid particular attention to current events in the Middle East and how they partially grew out of the Paris Peace Conference. "I don't think peace is something we've become better at. If the coalition forces pull out of Afghanistan and Iraq, we'll see this as a failure. We expect more from peace these days. It used to be that the winners and losers sat down and signed an agreement. This doesn't happen anymore. There hasn't been a major agreement since the Second World War. The Paris Peace Conference introduced ideals into international relations. There was a consensus that the leaders should build a better world, not just punish the losers."

Iraq was one of the countries hastily drawn during the conference out of the remnants of the Ottoman Empire. Britain bargained for possession of the country simply to secure a route to India and counter French influence in the Middle East. The international bargaining created "a feeling of betrayal in the Arab world, and it was a growing feeling," Macmillan said.

"What they did at the Paris Peace Conference is treat the Arab world contemptuously and they treated China poorly," she added.

The negotiating powers gave German possessions in China to Japan, a move that infuriated Chinese representatives. "Many of those who attended the conference from China would end up being responsible for the communist revolutions," Macmillan said.

Macmillan stressed that despite the nefarious world events that followed, the Paris Peace Conference has helped the world deal with ambitious superpowers.

"We have become more suspicious of ambitions to remake the world," she said.

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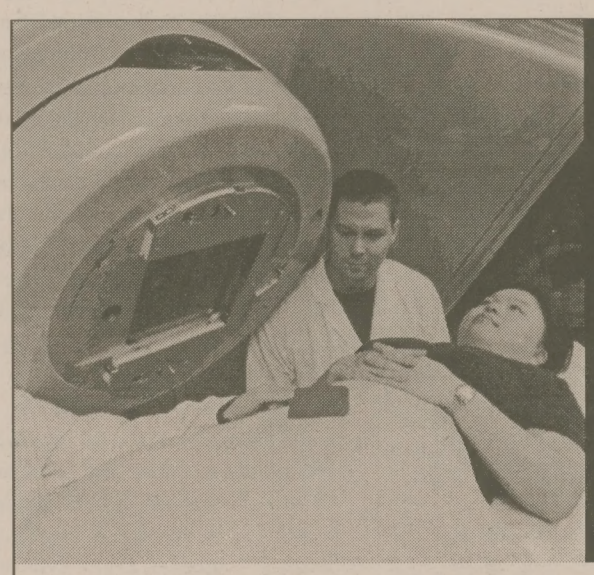

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EDITORIAL

Athletics in trouble

Have you ever woken up Christmas morning and watched your older, cooler brother open a present and get like 50 new GI Joes?

At first, you think, "Awesome, I'm totally getting something rad too." But when you open your present, all you get is socks, or maybe one GI Joe, but a totally lame one. Instead of getting to play and have wicked time on Christmas Day, you return to your room and mope with your 40-year-old doll with the leaky ceiling.

Okay, so dolls can't have leaky ceilings. They also can't be a 15 minute walk from campus, have a shitty gym, too many tennis courts and not enough of anything else. But you know what can? The Ian Stewart Complex. And you know who's getting like 50 GI Joes? Vancouver. While UVic's athletic facilities crumble, the sugar just keeps flowing to our bulky neighbour on the mainland.

As part of the kickback from the 2010 Olympics, Simon Fraser University in Burnaby is getting a brand new $70 million speed skating oval. UVic? We've got an ancient hockey rink we share with a minor hockey team.

UBC has a progressive, modern athletic facility. UVic? We've got the aforementioned Ian Stewart, a converted racket club with an old curling rink for a weight-room, a small coffin-like gym and the field house, a gulag-like tin can used for everything and suitable for just about nothing.

Vancouver gets the 2006 World Junior Hockey championship, worth an estimated $30 million in economic spin offs, plus a one million dollar provincial government grant. Victoria? We got cut out of the bid at the last minute, meaning none of that sweet cash will flow anywhere near the Island, let alone UVic.

UVic athletics are in trouble. We barely have the facilities to accommodate our varsity teams, let alone the hoards of intramural and recreational athletes that are banging on the gates wanting more, more, more. In the words of Intramural coordinator Paul Smith, the average student is getting "shafted." We need some of that cold Vancouver cash, and we need it now.

Is campus safe?

Sexual assault is one of the most intimate violations someone can experience. It's also a crime garbed in silence, since shame and social stigma often prevent victims from ever talking.

That's why it's extraordinary that a brave woman from the University of Saskatchewan began a petition for increased safety on campus after she was raped. That's how we found out about the story, and that's why the U of S recently bolstered their safety protocol.

It's frightening that some campus officials take comfort in low reports of sexual assault. Statistics become suspect when few victims come forward; low numbers might only indicate that a chilly climate exists for victims.

Often, the onus falls on victims for the crimes committed. They're blamed for not taking the right precautions, dressing provocatively or "leading someone on." The fact is, responsibility falls on all quarters to make a university campus safe. It's shameful that U of S officials appeared more interested in protecting their institution's public image than the safety of their students, faculty and staff. We hope to never see a similar response here.

At UVic, we seem to have it pretty good. A tight protocol exists between different campus services to deal with sexual assault, including prevention workshops for new students. We have an active sexual assault centre and women's centre. But our number of reported assaults is no higher than the national average, while rumours of sexual assault, especially among students in residence, still persist.

A simple matter of raising awareness here could help. Safe phones exist around campus, which alert Campus Security at the touch of a button. Why is it that few students know they exist?

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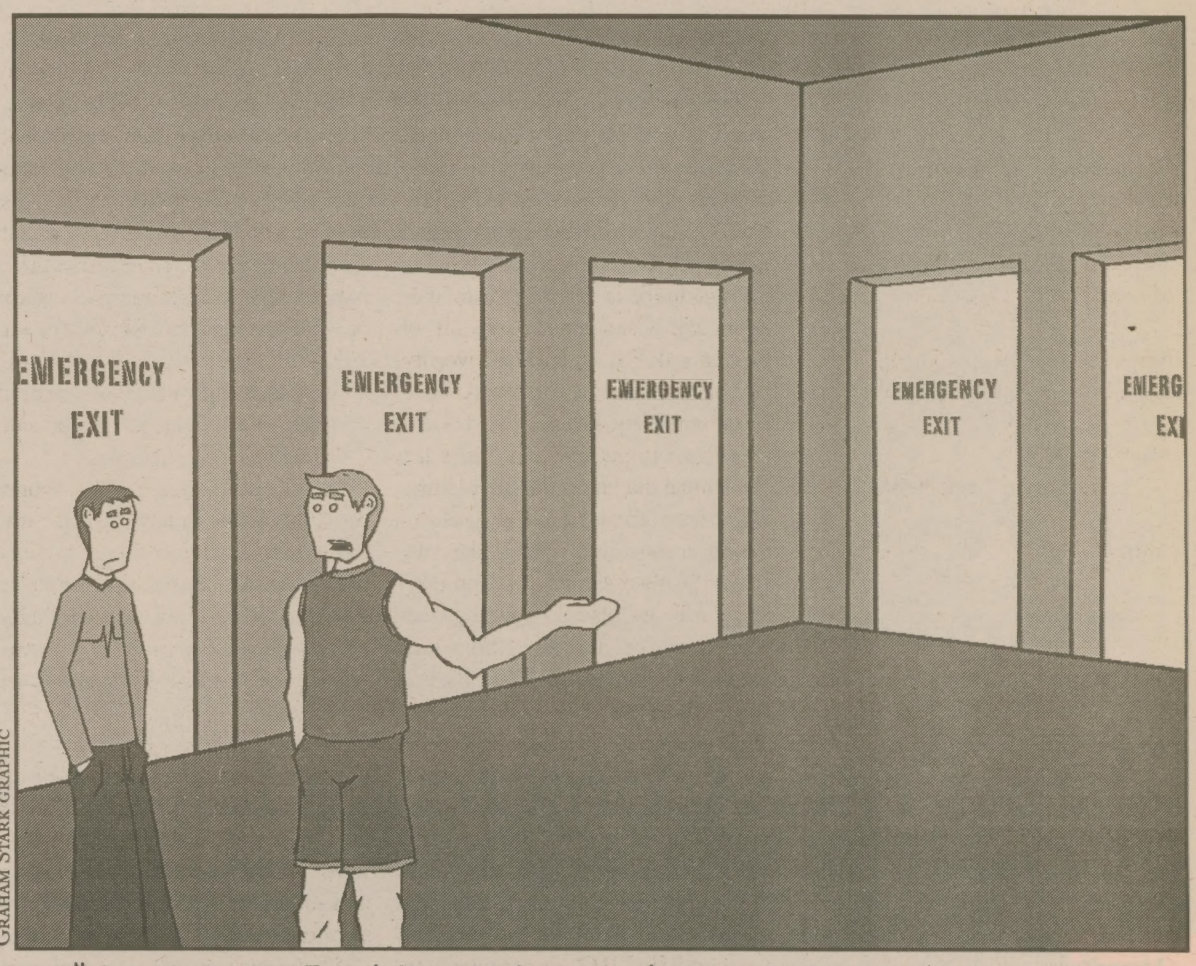

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

"Welcome to the Ian H. Stewart Complex. Only one of these exit doors works. Choose wisely."

LETTERS

Racial profiling and the media

The Canadian media is portraying the Canadians who emigrated from India and settled in Victoria, B.C. as the "Indian Mafia." The Vancouver Sun has labeled various people who are unrelated to the Dave Basi investigation as "Basi's Boys" simply because they are brown and come from an Indian ethnic background. An excerpt from the December 30, 2003 issue of the Vancouver Sun reads, "the young Martin organizers–referred to by insiders as 'Basi's Boys' are hugely influential."

The article goes on to refer to the "Basi's Boys" as, "a slew of high-profile Indo-Canadian organizers, including Amar Bajwa, who was regional director of Martin's B.C. campaign, as well as Savik Sidhu, who works in the Premier's office." Both of these men were born in Canada–not India. How then, are they "Indo-Canadians"?

While other Canadian citizens, who are clearly from diverse ethnic backgrounds, are addressed as "Canadians," the media has made it a point to scream out that immigrants from India are "Indo-Canadian."

Although former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is French-Canadian, he is hardly referred to as such. "Former Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien" or "Prime Minister Paul Martin" are very familiar phrases used by the media.

The terms "German-Canadian" or "Dutch-Canadian" or "Japanese-Canadian" or even "Italian-Canadian" or "Russian-Canadian" seem non-existent in the realm of the media, and it is a mystery as to why this is so.

Aman Nirwan

Separate marriage from government

The basis for Mr. Walby's January 29, *Martlet* article's argument is a flawed view of what marriage is, namely, a government institution that has been hijacked by religious groups. In reality, it is the other way around. Marriage is a religious institution that has only come to being through religious groups.

It has only been fairly recently that the state has become involved in marriage and, frankly, has not done a very good job of upholding it. Religious groups are up in arms because now the state, in its attempts to define and shape marriage, is essentially treading on territory that does not belong to it. Marriage is not a right or essential service, but a daily ritual that has spiritual meaning. Any attempt to tinker with the basic underpinnings of this is not a political offense but a spiritual one.

Whether you believe in God or not, it must be understood that to enter into marriage is to enter into a deeply religious institution. The state can only recognize full legal rights concerning of next-of-kin and tax issues.

Now that it seeks to move beyond its boundaries, it is time to throw the state out of marriage altogether.

No individual has a right to marriage, heterosexual or otherwise, and therefore such an institution cannot be "protected" by the state. If a church chooses to perform non-heterosexual marriage ceremonies, than it will be accountable before God, but by very definition cannot be accountable before government.

It is time we had true separation of church and state and threw the state out of marriage entirely.

John Macnab

Leaders Always Hide

As President Bush went quail hunting in his friend's farm in Texas just to get some physical exercise, U.S. soldiers were dying in Iraq and in Afghanistan–distant lands and culture unknown to most soldiers.

He was correct in his speech on Pearl Harbor Day that leaders, whether the commander in chief of the most powerful nation or the spokesperson of a fragile extremist group, always hide in shelters while young soldiers fight in the front line facing uncertainty, death and destruction.

Wars, irrespective of labels, cause destruction of innocent lives and civilization, confusing and terrifying all living animals in the affected part of our beautiful world. We can give our soldiers all kinds of technology, make them the ultimate killing machines in the front lines, but they are still frightened about the uncertainty, death and destruction around their foxholes, or sorties above.

Most people on this planet just want to go ahead with their daily lives in peace and harmony maintaining rich culture and diversity. They believe that most conflict can be resolved with honest and sincere diplomacy.

It is easy to demonize someone for political gain and spend billions of dollars to divert world attention in justifying use of military might. But wars, in any form, beget future war, by keeping hatred and vengeance alive in the minds of surviving friends and family of the victims.

Thus, it is time that world leaders work through the United Nations and the International Court of Justice to resolve conflicts punishing violators of peace and human rights, as appropriate.

Deepak Sarkar

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Tuition fee protests will change nothing

'Nothing the UVSS or the CFS does is going to persuade the B.C. government to increase funding'

BY BRYNA HALLAM

Spring brings a sense of optimism to all of us. The days grow longer. Buds begin to show on trees. Flowers line gardens and window boxes. The world begins to renew itself, and our hopes do the same.

I imagine it is this optimism that spurs the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) to action every February and compels them to gather their forces for the annual march on the Legislature.

This year, the UVSS is also setting up an activist camp and plans to teach the always important and relevant skills of placard painting and slogan writing. I'm sure those will catch Gordon Campbell's eye and make all the difference. It seems to me that their time and efforts could be better spent educating students and coming up with practical solutions to the problems they are facing.

The bottom line is that nothing the UVSS or the CFS does is going to persuade the B.C. government to increase funding to post-secondary institutions. Without that reversal, universities, including UVic, have no choice but to increase tuition fees.

Grants from the B.C. government for 2003–2004 totaled $123 million and made up 62 per cent of UVic's income, more than double what they get from tuition revenue. The province is cutting funding to UVic's operating budget by $7 million for 2004–2005. To compensate, the university is proposing yet another tuition increase, set to be 28 per cent this time around.

The reason that a protest won't result in any changes is that any change big enough to make a difference is simply too big to be made at once. Reducing tuition fees would be a temporary measure, and a meaningless one if done in isolation. In order to work, it would need to be done in conjunction with other changes–what would get funded by the government? How much additional tax would we pay? And that would require a change in priority and ideology, not only by the government, but by society as a whole.

Whatever happens, someone is going to have to pay for higher education. It's fine to say it should be the government, but what that really means is that it should be taxpayers.

Students need the support of Joe Taxpayer, who already thinks that he pays too much in taxes and receives too little in return. All the placards and clever slogans in the world aren't going to change his mind. Cartoons of Gordon Campbell riding a rocket ship aren't going to change his mind. In truth, there is probably nothing that is going to change his mind.

Students are easy for politicians to ignore because they have no money. In addition, they tend not to vote in great numbers.

This is a deadly combination if you're trying to get the government's attention.

The strongest move students can make is to remember all of this when they're out of school. Change is slow, and we're probably not going to see the abolition or even reduction of tuition fees within our university careers. Support will need to build, and that means that we will need to support affordable post-secondary education, even when we are no longer students.

In the meantime, what is a students' society to do?

I agree that they need to bring attention to the issue, and protests are a good way to do that. What needs to be recognized is that they don't necessarily garner support. They also do not help in anyone in the short term.

The ideal situation would be for the UVSS to continue its work advocating for change, in addition to helping students who need it now. If students are short on money and can't afford food, then it makes sense to get them food and target the reason they're going hungry.

The UVSS has implemented some good programs aimed at helping students cope with their financial burdens and immediate problems; the food bank, health insurance and U-Pass are all examples. But there is an opportunity for the UVSS to help more students by participating in services of this kind that are more relevant to the everyday lives of students.

Maybe once they have food in their bellies they will join the march.

'True believers' talk without listening

'Everyone seems either to latch on to a particular "ism" and hold it tight'

BY RICHARD WARNICA

Globe and Mail columnist Heather Mallick wrote last Saturday "without doubt, the worst people are the ones who see the world in a simple way."

Mallick was referring to those individuals who split the world into two groups–themselves and their enemies. And who, by extension, whitewash their own actions, and condemn those of the other, regardless of the truth of the situation.

Reading it reminded me of a young woman petitioning in the Student Union Building (SUB) last week against the presence of Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan.

The petition itself didn't bother me. There are plenty of legitimate arguments for Canada to get out of that war-wracked country, just as there are plenty of arguments for them to stay. What bothered me was the fervent moral certitude of the petitioner.

When I asked her what would happen if all foreign troops abandoned Afghanistan, she launched into an angry tirade, the highlights of which were: all action in Afghanistan is American imperialism, all previous Afghan governments were American patsies, and the Afghan people should be free to choose a dictatorship if that's what they want.

This all was delivered in an eye-glazed rant, completely impervious to anything that came out of my mouth. I could have produced a detailed video survey in which every single living Afghan implored her personally to keep Canadians in the country, and it wouldn't have mattered.

For she was a true believer. She believed so fully in what she was talking about that nothing could possibly shake her. In other words, she was seeing the world in a simple way.

The problem with ideologues and true believers like that young woman is that there is nothing, no piece of evidence, no testimony, research or intervention, divine or otherwise that will convince them that they are wrong. Believers like her are so sure of themselves that they are beyond argument or conversation–they cannot discuss, they can only preach.

It was the true believers on the European left who defended Stalin while he purged the Ukraine. And it was the true believers on the right that whitewashed the actions of cold war nominal anti-communists like the Nicaraguan Contras.

For the current batch of true believers on the left, American foreign policy is invariably imperialism, while for the yin to their yang on the right, anything anti-American is terrorism. To argue against either position is to risk being branded a) a fascist, an imperialist patsy, or quite often a racist or b) a freedom hater, a terrorist patsy, or an idiot.

Both sides are so sure of their own inherent grasp of the truth that rational debate with either is impossible. They each have reduced all opposition to a handy "ism" that serves as a handy, ghoulish big tent of all that is wrong in the world.

Anyone who believes 100 per cent in anything is a fool. Skepticism only works if applied to your own beliefs and not just those of others.

The problem is that fewer and fewer people seem willing to be skeptical. Everyone seems either to latch on to a particular "ism" and hold it tight to it whatever may come, or they seem to abandon the need for any kind of knowledge whatsoever. Rather than breeding intelligent, critical thinkers we seem to spawn an odd mix of ideologues and their polar opposite, those who don't care at all.

I'm convinced that the petitioner in the SUB last week didn't change any minds with her angry harangue. She may have bolstered some who already agreed with her, or raised the hackles of those who don't, but I doubt that she made anybody really think about the issues she was trying to raise.

Forget weather–groundhogs are just horny

'Groundhogs leave their holes to get their freak on and they're greeted by TV cameras'

BY NORMAN ED BASKERVILLE

Yesterday, oversized rodents prophesizing on the weather thrilled millions of jaw-dropped spectators.

Obviously these are the same people who watch *American Idol* for the music, guffaw when men get kicked in the testicles and are mesmerized by shiny things.

Three out of four famous groundhog-meteorologists came out of their holes and saw their shadow, which supposedly signals six more weeks of winter.

Now I don't want to pee on the parade, but with all our modern scientific knowledge we humans can't predict the weather from one day to the next–so do we have to find it charming to pretend that Punxsutawney Phil, Pennsylvania's prognosticator, Wiarton Willie, Ontario's best-known woodchuck, Alberta's Balzac or Nova Scotia's Shubenacadie Sam are somehow smarter than us?

Well, maybe they are.

Punxsutawney Phil was actually booed this year when he saw his shadow.

Thankfully, I'm not the only person who thinks the German-based superstition is an utterly moronic waste of time.

Stam Zervanos, a professor of biology at Pennsylvania State University in Reading, Pennsylvania, observed 30 groundhogs over four years. Zervanos found that most went into hibernation in early November and emerged in early February looking for love.

Well-rested, horny little groundhogs leave their holes to get their freak on and they're greeted by TV cameras and crowds of teeming people, while some idiot shoves a microphone into their whiskered faces.

Hey hole watchers, just leave the poor horny bastards alone.

CONCRETE J

BY JONATHAN ROTHMAN

It's early Sunday morning in downtown Victoria, B.C. Bars have emptied, cops yawn on the night shift, and the streets are dark and hushed.

Unknown to the city's sleeping populace, a cadre of urban explorers creeps across downtown rooftops. They skulk around alleyway corners, hunt for a large, tattered Canadian flag or plot strategy to free their teammates in a jailbreak.

Capture The Flag is on.

The rules are simple: two teams, two jails, two captains and two flags.

Borders depend on the number of players and can include Douglas Street, the ocean, the B.C. Legislature, and Chinatown, a single block on Fisgard Street with ornate dragon gates.

The object: capture the other team's flag and recover it to your team's territory without getting caught and taken to the opposing team's jail–typically located below the wharf side steps of Bastion Square.

These games are not being played in the woods. Flag demands its players to explore the hidden passages and fire escapes of slumbering Victoria–places few residents even blink at, much less notice as strategic escape routes.

The meeting point is 2 a.m. Sunday at Market Square's Johnson Street gates.

Flag organizer and co-creator Judith Lyn Arney, 24, arrives in sneakers, a camouflage-green wool toque, dark jeans and a worn windbreaker.

An english and environmental studies student at the University of Victoria, Arney has green eyes, a pointy chin, red-streaked brown hair and an impish smile. She stands in a small circle with tall boys in hoods, plain jackets and toques, hacking a footbag between their feet while they wait for more Flaggers.

Martin McCarvill shuffles across the sidewalk, hands in his pockets, a grey toque on his head. An honours english student at UVic, McCarvill co-created the urban Flags games with Arney over two years ago. Arney turns to embrace him while others tie shoelaces or smoke cigarettes and hand-blown glass pot pipes.

Depending on the night, Flaggers may consist of other UVic students who have left the bar to play, teens in ragged hoods and black leather jackets, or thirtysomething insomniacs with office jobs who have given up on bar-hopping.

McCarvill and Arney discuss team captains and appraise the flags: the maple leaf with dried dirt on it or the blue flag with a yellow, soaring bird.

"Your team gets the 'Lesbian Seagull' flag," says Arney, laughing. Beavis and Butthead references aside, Arney prefers books and hacky-sacks to television. She recognizes Flag's position as a socially alternative (and generally discouraged) stance on the use of public space.

"It's reclaiming the city as our playground," she says. "It's about being a child again, and it's very much a sociological necessity at this point. People feel bad when they stay up all night and wake up in the afternoon. They feel guilty.

"It's time to take back the night, in a very adventurous sense."

In a February 2002 edition of local weekly *Monday Magazine*'s column "The Last Word," Arney wrote: "These Saturday night games are not your average Flag games. We play downtown, covering rooftops and alleys. We play at night when the streets are ours, and we play with no team identification whatsoever. You must remember who your teammates are, you must be stealthy and you must be wise. You must be honest–no lying is a big rule–and vandals are not welcome."

Her and McGarvill's dedication, with the help of die-hard Flagger Odin Lake, has driven the Flag community's growth over nearly three years of scaling fire escapes and avoiding imprisonment at Victoria Police headquarters, as well as at the game's Bastion Square jail. The game has grown into a local ritual with a unique community offering something better to do on Saturday night than drinking at the bar.

In the game Arney and McCarvill have created, players skulk behind alley walls, climb any ladder or fire escape that may help them find the opposing team's flag, and hide to avoid capture by the defending team's patrols, who tag them and escort the "offside" or flag-searching player to jail.

A member of the captured player's team can break them out of jail by making it to the detention area, such as the circle set into concrete in lower Bastion Square. The undetected and daring jail breaker must run through the jail and tag his or her players to release them, then scatter to avoid recapture.

Moments like this remind you how much fun it can be to yell "JAILBREAK!"

The Flag game has inevitably led to runins with local police, who see only youths running in the streets and hiding in alleys during late-night patrol shifts.

Frog, a Flagger and friend of McCarvill's, shares a tale of Flag's most thrilling "near-miss with the cops." While exploring atop the Paper Box Building on Johnson Street, Frog, McCarvill and two other players had their "urban stealth skills" tested when a large angered resident suddenly tackled Frog and applied a half nelson.

"I just went down and he lay on top of me, told me he'd heard people on his roof before," says Frog. "He tried to call the cops with his cell but it was dead, so he woke up his neighbour, who called the cops."

"He pounded on a window and said he'd caught a burglar," continues Frog. "We explained about Flags, and the guy let me (and Martin) go, thinking we'd go talk to the police, who he could see from his window.

"We jumped down into the alley and climbed back onto another roof, and I turned around and saw him point at me, saying 'I see you!' We ended up in a walled-off courtyard behind a restaurant–there was nowhere to go and the cops were chasing us because we ran.

"We scaled the short wall and hid behind the dumpsters and recycling, freaking out and trying not to breathe too loud, and in a few minutes the cops came to check the courtyard. They asked what was over the wall, and (the) restaurant owner who was there said it was just garbage.

"One of them poked a flashlight over the wall at us, and my heart was beating super fast. We waited until the cops left and got out real quietly."

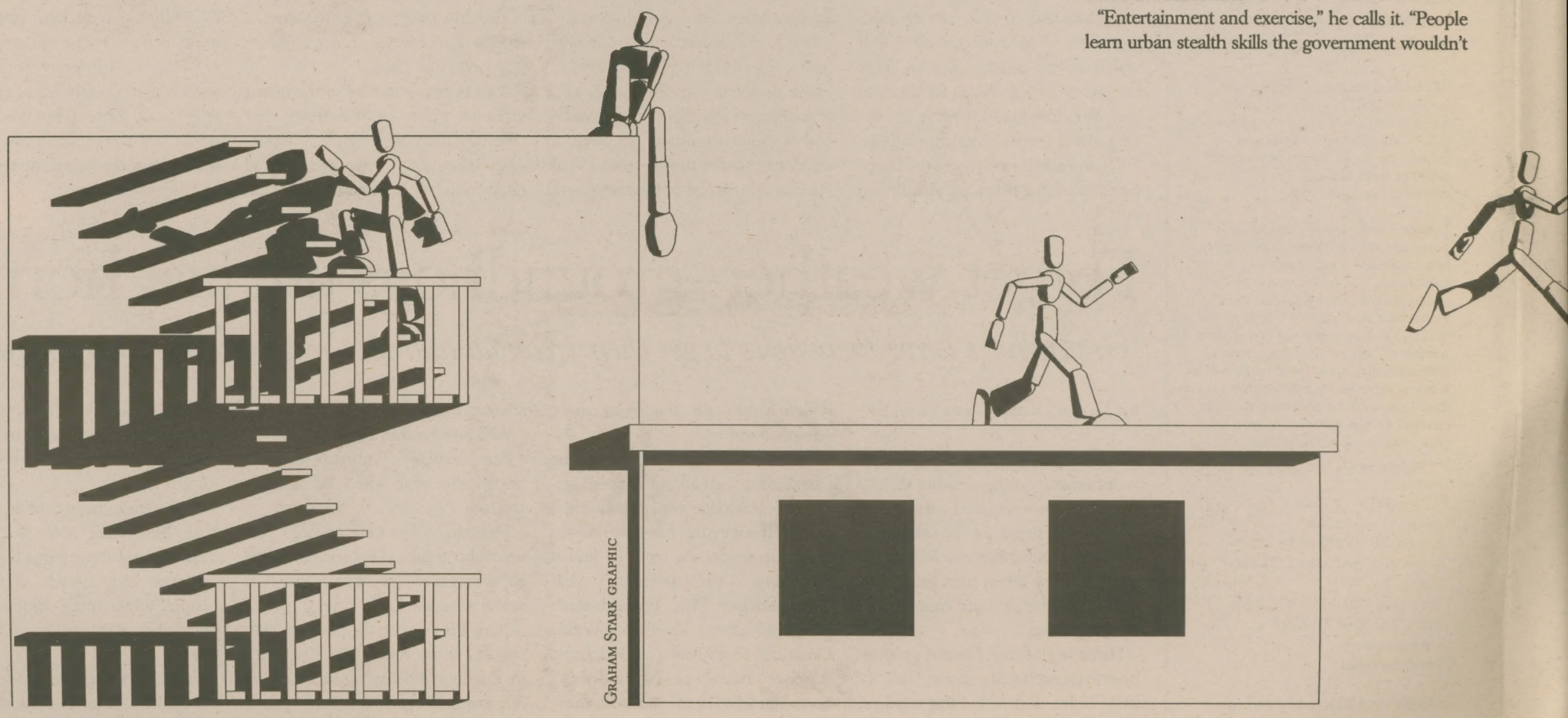
"I could see that happening," says Victoria Police officer Mike Chicorelli, who often works late shifts and has encountered the Flaggers while on patrol. "Climbing rooftops late at night, well, there are lots of 'break and enters' occurring in that time frame."

By many Flagger's accounts, though, police confrontations begin with the question "what are you doing?" They end when the "suspect" replies that they are playing Capture The Flag, and the officers leave.

"It's not that common, but if they're playing a game there's no reason to run (from police)," says Chicorelli. "It's about communication, safety and common sense. They shouldn't be running in the middle of the road."

On escaping from police, Frog notes that Flag is, among other things, a free activity that has only attracted police presence when non-Flaggers have called the authorities.

"Entertainment and exercise," he calls it. "People learn urban stealth skills the government wouldn't



GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

JUNGLE GYM

approve of. We're the only people playing games in the city at night–it appeals to something in me that's not ordinary. It's really exciting, there's a rebellious aspect to it. But I'm not a lawbreaker."

Victoria's Flaggers and their game are unique, but they're not alone in their underground culture of urban exploration.

Toronto-based *Infiltration*, "the 'zine about going places you're not supposed to go," has documented clandestine conquests of Union Station–a train depot where passengers, commuters, travellers and cargo converge from across Greater Toronto, southwestern Ontario, Canada and the United States–as well as explorations of the MuchMusic building in Toronto and the Paris Catacombs.

Toronto's Reclaim The Streets, a yearly event inspired by actions in London and across the UK and Europe, has also echoed the growing desire to see urban public space made accessible. Activists, fairy-winged rave kids, anti-car protesters and those simply wishing to enjoy a good street party have made the annual march in the streets a celebration with a message: dancin' in the streets can and should exist in North American culture.

A newer addition to the "Global Street Party"–as the Reclaim the Streets organizers alternately refer to it–is Guerilla Gardening, where squares of real grass are laid on the road during the party.

In May 2001, RTS employed these tactics to "greenify" Bay St., the hub of the city's financial district. Bewildered businessmen stared as DJs plugged in to play records and barefoot dancing revelers showed Toronto their grass-stained feet, their version of roots resistance and social commentary.

Martin McCarvill has lived in Vienna, London, and Vancouver, and is fascinated with what he sees as the artificial distinctions between city and suburb, nature and buildings, or simply societal perceptions of inside and outside.

"The city we play (Flag) in doesn't really exist anyway," he says. "We play in the streets at night, not when the city functions during the day. We treat the city like a landscape, an environment where people exist. I'm a pretty urban kid, and it's natural to me to treat the city like a living room."

McCarvill has even discovered that an earlier version of Flag existed in Victoria, with smaller boundaries, no climbing and games lasting a few days to a week, versus his and Arney's four-hour games of night prowling and citywide skulking. He describes the older version as "less vertical."

McCarvill maintains, however, that urban public space does not necessarily need to be reclaimed.

"I don't think we should see the urban environment as a problem," he says. "If the whole urban reclamation movement is about making the city a good place to be, then it's a worthy cause, but the city is already great.

"Guerrilla gardening is like Flags in many ways, but as far as holding rallies or worrying about making street corners safe, it's irrelevant."

Shortly after publishing the *Monday* piece, Arney sustained serious injuries during play, resulting in Flag's most renowned run-in with the authorities.

In a celebratory "two-year Flagiversary" game, Arney and two teammates had completed a flag capture atop the Bug Zoo on Wharf Street. They descended from a higher roof onto a lower one, en route to an alley that connects to Bastion Square.

Arney slipped off the wall she'd been sliding down. Her legs twisted as she fell, fracturing her fibula.

Ambulance, police and fire vehicles arrived at the scene to shine headlights on approximately 30 Flaggers. The crowd did not disperse, unapologetic about their presence as they awaited confirmation of their comrade's well-being.

"There was no scatter," recalls Arney. "Everyone stayed while the fire department's cherry picker lifted me in the stretcher to the ground. The paramedics tried to secure my hands to my chest, but I was in shock, and as they lowered me, I heard the kids cheering from 50 feet below. I put my arms out and pretended I could fly, that's how good I felt."

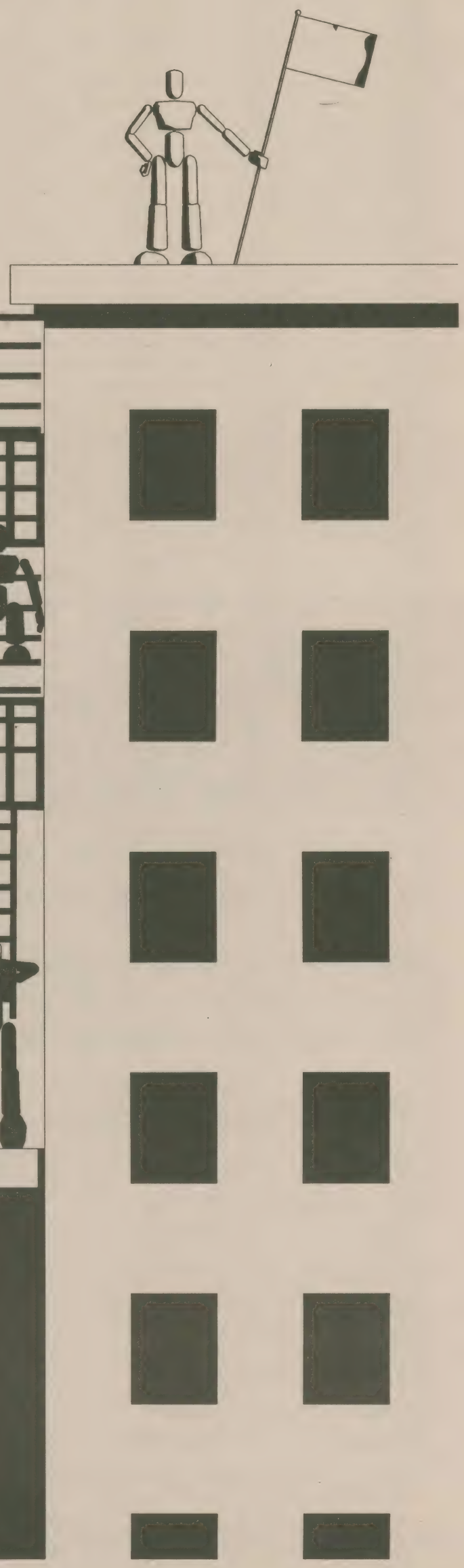
Arney was back in the game four weeks later, clad in a large cast and playing the jail guard position–under specially modified new rules, she was allowed to tag potential jail breakers by launching hacky sacks at them with a slingshot.

"It's sweet being able to know downtown Victoria like it's your home, your backyard," she says.

McCarvill adds: "You just don't know how fucking beautiful the city is from 10 stories up when the sun's rising and you're tired and dirty and bleeding."

Flag games happen on the first Saturday night/Sunday morning of every month. Meeting point is 2 a.m. at Market Square Gates on Johnson Street. The 4th annual "Flagiversary" will take place at the same time next Saturday, Feb. 21.

E-mail judith@vicfootbag.com for more info.



Arrowing in on real rock 'n' roll

BY VANESSA NEUMAN

Tuesday Feb. 10, 2004. The day that The Walkmen arrive in Victoria to kick off their tour in support of their brand new album, *Bows and Arrows*. Does the band name sound familiar? Perhaps you'd recognize their song "We've Been Had" from their last album, *Everyone Who Pretended to Like Me Is Gone*, which was also featured on a commercial for the Saturn Ion sometime last year. Not a bad gig for a then-fledgling band.

If you looked only at their vital statistics you might think that they were yet another group riding the current wave of rock as far as they possibly can before it breaks. You might even think that The Walkmen bring nothing of particular note to the scene except more well-dressed, moody-looking musicians, but there's something a little different about these guys and their music.

On many tracks, vocalist Hamilton Leithauser's ever so slightly scratchy voice takes on the quality of a lost child. Walter Martin's piano enhances the wistful feeling. Their louder songs are more conventionally rock and roll, but it swerves just enough to avoid that stale and overdone sound that is heard too often on commercial radio. Tracks like "The Rat," the album's first single, might not sound quite as vulnerable as, say, the slower "No Christmas While I'm Talking," but you can still empathize with Leithauser when he sings, "When I used to go out I'd know everyone I saw. Now I go out alone if I go out at all."

For anyone familiar with their debut album, *Bows and Arrows* is in a similar vein, except this time around their sound is more mature and you can tell they're more comfortable playing with each other. When they recorded *Everyone*, all members were veteran musicians and three had played together in Jonathan Fire*Eater, but they had never performed live together as The Walkmen. As a result that first album, while good, was not as cohesive as it could ultimately have been.

"(*Bows and Arrows*) sounds a lot more like a band playing than then last one does . . . we didn't really know how to play together," admits bassist Peter Bauer. "(This time) we didn't want to do any overdubbing that we didn't have to, so we were really intent that it was a good performance of the five of us playing. It sounds more like a rock band, which is good if you like rock bands."

It's also good if you like loud music because there is rumoured to be quite a difference between The Walkmen through your stereo and The Walkmen live in Technicolor. The Walkmen recorded on CD can be mellow or thoughtful. The Walkmen in person are a whole new ballgame.

"It's definitely a different story. Especially before this record it's always been a surprise for people who saw us the first time and had liked our (previous) record," says Bauer. "It's loud. There's a lot of screaming and guitar."

The new album captures their energy a bit better than the last one, although nothing recorded in studio ever comes close to a live show, so it's likely this time will be a surprise as well.

What seems to be on Bauer's mind is the tour itself. What started out sounding like a relaxing few weeks, with breaks in between shows, has now become a packed tour.

"No one will even tell us how long it is, but we're trying to keep it to places where people actually have an interest in seeing us this time," he laughs.

"Last time we did this we'd go to places and be like, 'Why are we here? No one cares.'"

No matter what, they'll keep themselves amused. Last time they toured they decided to make some additions to their website, www.thewalkmen.com, and came up with a section entitled Pete's Corner where you find everything from reviews of movies the band watched on their laptop and an online dating service run by Bauer himself. This time around he promises it will get better.

"We've got a camera this time that you can plug into the computer, so I think we'll probably just do something absolutely ignorant every day."

Excellent. And until their antics go online again, catch The Walkmen this Tuesday at Lucky bar.

The Walkmen play Lucky Bar on Tuesday Feb. 10 with The Decemberists and Lakeboat. Tickets are $12 in advance and can be bought at Ditch Records. Also catch them Friday the 6th on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*.

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Slouching in style, The Walkmen show their cool.

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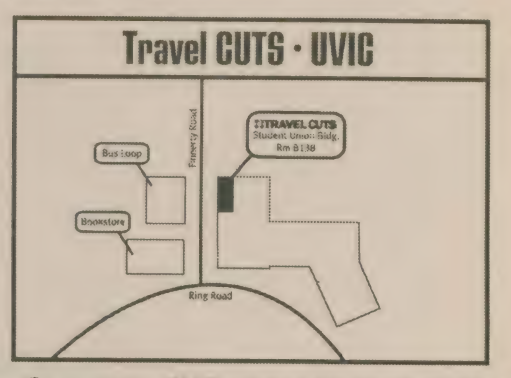

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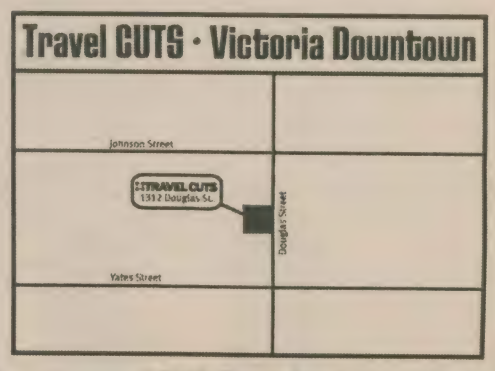

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Calling all cinephiles and film buffs

Many choices at the Victoria Independent Video and Film Festival

BY JEN KING

With parking meters covered and a red carpet rolled out onto the butt-flecked pavement in front of the Capitol 6, Blanshard and Yates became a surreal scene on Friday, the opening night of the 10th annual Victoria Independent Film and Video Festival.

For months cellulo-philes from the region's media and film have been selecting submissions, organizing sponsors and venues, and spreading the word in hope of inspiring Victorians. A hundred and sixty films from B.C. and abroad, alongside interactive forums and fantastic parties, challenge the international community to discover all that our city's arts have to offer.

Rumors have been flying for weeks among festival staff, local media and film buffs about what the "must-sees" and "miss-ables" may be. Some films that have already showed, such as headliner *Les Triplettes de Belleville*, are clear winners, having won rave reviews at Cannes and Sundance.

Others, such as the hilarious and awe-inspiring *The Big Empty*, have emerged out of leftfield as audience favourites when it played on Febuary 1 and 2.

Another smash was the hip-hop documentary *5 Sides of A Coin* by B.C. director Paul Kell, fuelled by featured artist DJ Spooky's opening night concert. The sheer variety available, from documentary to comedy to drama to those hard-to-place art flicks, is stunning. Many of the works deserving mention are either intriguingly local or those that have magically generated a buzz about town. In addition to the work of up-and-coming shorts directors, which dots the program in enticing groups, there is also student talent–at the InVision/FilmCan short program Thursday, Feb. 5th. Those who prefer a spicier cup of tea should check out the Erotic Shorts program that also runs Thursday.

In the way of features, quite a few gems encrust the second half of the festival. *Breakfast with Hunter* is a documentary on the life and ways of American writer Hunter S. Thompson that has impressed audiences across the continent since its Vegas premiere. *Headrush* also charms audiences as an Irish drug-crime thriller, while *Robot Stories*, dripping with international acclaim, promises to be an emotionally-tinged sci-fi fascination.

Of course, no festival is complete without those selections that give the prospective viewer the exhilaration of knowing they could go only one of two ways. You can read the program, quiz the jurors and rifle through the press pack, but the thrill of danger draws you in.

Bastards by eccentric B.C. actor/writer/producer/director Mort Ransen just reeks of risk. Filmed on Saltspring Island, it follows a young woman's activist exposition of the world. As actors address the camera directly, the film runs entirely from the point of view of Ransen, allowing the audience to experience what she does.

Another strange-smelling plot appears in the form of *Moving Malcolm*, which follows the repercussions of a novelist befriending his ex-fiancée's father when he moves the older man to a rest home at her request, hoping to win her back despite the protests of his clan. This shows on Febuary 5.

Ultimately, the success of a festival lays in the hands of moviegoers. Whether you're a newbie, a fan of the classics or a child of the avant-garde, you must decide whether to take a risk and go see the title that you know could either hit the stratosphere or completely bomb. So, after you pick up your program you've got to ask yourself one question: do I feel lucky?

Well, do ya, punk?

Running from Jan. 30 to Feb. 8, the Victoria Independent Film and Video Festival is online at www.vifvf.com.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Some Canadian flicks to check out at the festival

19 Months (Ontario) playing at 1:00 p.m. on Feb. 7 at the Capitol 6 Theatre.
The Republic of Love (Canada/UK) playing at 7:00 p.m. on Feb. 5 at the Star Cinema.
Gaz Bar Blues (Quebec) playing at 6:45 p.m. on Feb. 8 at the Capitol 6 Theatre.
Love, Sex and Eating the Bones (Canada) playing at 9:15 p.m. on Feb. 7 at the Capitol 6 Theatre.

Some foreign flicks to check out at the festival

Lover and Leavers (Finland) playing at 7:00 p.m. on Feb. 6 at the Star Cinema.
The Suit (Spain) playing at 7:15 p.m. on Feb. 5 at the Capitol 6 Theatre.
Fatigue (Wales) playing at 9:00 p.m. on Feb. 8 at Alix Goolden Hall.

Master and Commander sails into Best Picture race

BY MAX LAMB

Movies should boast more than just special effects: they should contain strong narrative, stirring characters, and a compelling story. But in recent years it seems that a good script, decent acting, and realistic characters are expendable in favour of big action, as big action means big box office.

Thankfully, Peter Weir's epic new film *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World* has a great story that doesn't get lost in the special effects.

Weir, the director behind *The Truman Show* and *Gallipoli*, has created his finest film yet in *Master and Commander*.

The movie is based on the novels of Patrick O'Brian that chronicle the English war against Napoleon in 1805. Russell Crowe plays Jack Aubrey, the captain of the H.M.S. Surprise. His friend, Stephen Maturin, serves as the physician on the ship, and is played by Paul Bettany (*A Knight's Tale*, *A Beautiful Mind*).

The film centres on the two men's duties on the ship and the decisions they make, fueled by two very different temperaments. Aubrey is intent on following his order to sink the Archeron, a French warship. Maturin is on the voyage in an attempt to discover any number of new animal species on uncharted land. Their objectives often cross paths, but each of these men act as teachers to the crew on the ship, which is predominately composed of teenaged boys.

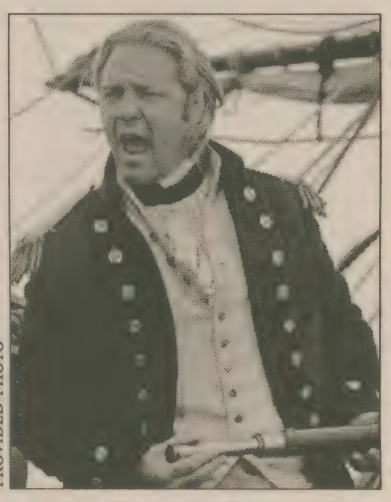
Scenes in which the often-teenaged soldiers are required to perform tasks that seem emotionally impossible are what make the film fantastic, like when a young soldier must leave his best friend to die in the ocean in order to maintain the boat's speed.

Master and Commander is not the story of a boat battling a French warship. It is the account of the everyday life on an English ship in the middle of a war.

The two major battle scenes are directed well and do not rely on heavy sword fights or big explosions. Weir instead chooses to capture the raw, remorseless death not seen in his work since *Gallipoli*.

Since we become so attached to these characters, it is difficult to see them face their tribulations. This is also an effect of the excellent performances in this film, with Crowe and Bettany driving the story forward at a steady pace and allowing the audience time to connect with their character's motivations. Though Crowe is already a household name, Bettany's performance will surely put him on the map.

Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World is a breathtaking epic that will remind you of the days before computer animation created our movies for us. It is Peter Weir's best film to date and its presence at the Oscars this month is well deserved.



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Jack Aubrey (Russell Crowe) was surprisingly not nominated for the Best Actor in a Leading Role Oscar, for the first time in four years.

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People want *One Last Kiss*

BY SARAH PETRESCU

TIM MATHESON PHOTO

Micki Maunsell, the violin maker, pauses for the sweet, sweet sound of a violin.

Filled with dead-pan humor, endearing characters and a plot that really spins, Aaron Bushkowsky's new comedy, *One Last Kiss*, is fantastic.

While most plays about aging and love drag up images of *Driving Miss Daisy* or *On Golden Pond*, where seniors discover themselves slowly and without much havoc, *One Last Kiss* throws off set conventions about older people in theatre–the oldest couple is the randiest, the wife has the midlife crisis and the mom is the real partier.

Bushkowsky was commissioned to write the play for Western Gold Theatre, whose mandate is to produce theatre for seniors, but this play–it's anything but old.

One Last Kiss is good theatre, the kind that defines the way new Canadian drama should be heading: strong narrative, local wit and familiar places. The play tells the story of a couple in their 50s, a bitter elderly mother and a historic couple, among other things. The stories are intertwined through the making of a violin and a revolving stage.

Bushkowsky's play is hilarious from the get go. It opens with the charming and brilliantly portrayed 18th century couple, the Stradivaris, played by Antony Holland and Micki Maunsell. Holland is seamless as the 90-year-old hunched-but-spritely violin maker. Maunsell shines as his eccentric and forgetful wife.

In fact the entire cast is dynamite. Rita Howell stands out as the cynical yet lovable mom Lil–a character reminiscent of Estelle Getty's "Sophia" on the 80s T.V. hit *Golden Girls*. And Terence Kelly is as enchanting as he is pathetic as the sensitive and eccentric husband Tony.

One Last Kiss *makes its world première at the Belfry Theatre, in collaboration with the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company and Western Gold Theatre, and runs until Feb. 15.*

Retro war book offers wisdom

BY ZOË BAKE-PATERSON

Regeneration
Pat Barker
Plume

Imagine a book about war where a shot is never fired.

Imagine that this book is wrenching, provocative and at times, clinical.

If you can, then you've probably read Pat Barker's first book in her trilogy about the First World War, *Regeneration*.

Barker brilliantly weaves historical fact with fiction to create the story of soldier and noted poet, Siegfried Sassoon. A man who, upon writing a declaration of refusal to continue fighting in the war, is shuttled off to Craiglockhart War Hospital–a place for the "mentally unsound"–to avoid the embarrassment of a high-profile figure speaking against the war.

It is easy to tell a tale of battle. It is substantially harder to delve into the minds of those who fight. This is what makes *Regeneration* so unique.

The story of Sassoon, and his thoughts on the war, including his rationale for refusing to continue fighting, shapes the book. Conversations between him and psychiatrist Dr. William Rivers explore the fine balance of sanity, while his interaction with other patients reveals the very diverse experiences and reactions to the war. Sassoon's own opinion is in constant shuffle: he supports the war, then protests against the war, but is neither a pacifist, nor a coward.

It is an extraordinary book in that it is able to tell a story based on truth. Sassoon did write a declaration in 1917 against continuing the war and was then sent to a psychiatric hospital and met with Dr. Rivers where he befriended poet Wilfred Owen. Barker takes the characters beyond these simple facts and builds dynamic and colourful characters.

Regeneration captures the violence of war and the grim and devastating experiences the men face without simplifying it into military tactics. It explores the discovery of "shell-shock" in the psychiatric community.

The men are drawn into the world of Craiglockhart. They are forced to interact while reliving their own memories of battle–either privately or in the screaming throes of a nightmare. Even still, the bonds between the men grow strongly, the editing of poems between Sassoon and Owen being just one example. While there are moments of close sharing, much of this book is an internal struggle, each faces the stigma of being a called a coward and while the war carries images of terror, to recover "sanity" appears to be the only way to regain the status of "gentleman."

This book claims very little. It is neither pro-war nor pacifist, but it is an honesty story about the war's impact on boys in the guise of men.

Even a dozen years after it has been published, *Regeneration* still engages readers, drawing them into the psycho-analytical world of war.

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An erection is not considered personal growth

Mr. Love looks for love–and cash–in all the right places

BY MAX LAMB

Location matters when it comes to producing theatre. The right stage or locale can provide the perfect atmosphere for any play.

For director Ian Case, Craigdarroch Castle is the ideal spot. His production of *The Mysterious Mr. Love* opens there on Wednesday, Feb. 5. In this case, the setting is absolutely ideal, as *The Mysterious Mr. Love* is set in the upper-class scene of 1912. It is a story of a fortune-seeking diplomat named George Love, and filled with romance and psychological thrills.

Case describes George Love as a conman who goes around London at the turn of the century finding women with low self-esteem–"marries them, steals their money and leaves them on their wedding night." Adelaide Pinchin is another of his seemingly vulnerable victims, insecure because she believes she is "too fat to be seen." The story takes an unexpected turn when Adelaide reveals she has more than meets George Love's eye, and the plot twists in some surprising ways.

The script was a hit with its crew and cast, including Case himself. "A co-worker of mine asked to see a production of the play. I did a bit of research and decided to order it. I got some actors together to read through it, and they all thought it was fantastic."

PROVIDED PHOTO

Paul Terry is the dashing Mr. Looooove.

The script allows for acting freedoms not available in most plays. "It's an actor's play," Case says. "It's basically an in-depth conversation exploring what love and truth is."

Paul Terry, the "M" Award winning actor, takes the lead as George Love. Gina McIntosh joins the cast as Adelaide shortly after performing a sold out run of *The Attic, the Pearls and Three Fine Girls*. There is also live violin accompaniment.

The Castle itself is just as integral as the play and actors.

"It's written for the stage and to be done in a small theatre. I tried to take a look at the castle to see if we could do that. We did our first production of it on Valentine's last year, and the audience response was fantastic. We turned away a lot of people at the door, so we decided we'd do it again this year. We had to keep it fresh and ask why each character finds their motivation and core while still taking advantage of the Castle," says Case, explaining why he is bringing back his popular production. "The setting allows the audience to experience the scenes and characters as if they were memories or ghosts of the building itself."

With its surprising twists and turns, *The Mysterious Mr. Love* should prove to be an interesting case of suspense and character intentions, complete in an Edwardian atmosphere.

The Mysterious Mr. Love *runs from Feb. 5–7, 12–14, 2004 at the Craigdarroch Castle, 592-5323.*

Ex-Moist man scores

BY BRAD DEN OUDEN

David Usher
Hallucinations
EMI

David Usher's *Hallucinations* album is a definitive follow up to his first two solo albums, 2001's critically acclaimed *Morning Orbit*, and 1998's *Little Songs*.

Throughout Usher's relatively brief solo career he's attempted to distance himself from his previous band, Moist, and all the comparisons attached to his individual success. Although several key Moist survivors contribute heavily to the new album, particularly bassist Jeff Pearce and Kevin Young on keyboards, Usher's own individuality continues to develop. His growth as both a lyricist and vocalist are evident throughout the 12 tracks. The title track makes an immediate impact with a multi-layered, synthesized intro before Usher ignites.

The compilation tests the range of Usher's voice, as several notes on both the first singles "Time Of Our Lives" and "Message Home" stretch his melodious voice to new and improved heights. Usher's music cannot be truly appreciated without the admiration of his lyrics. "Time Of Our Lives" offers metaphors galore: "I once had a bird like you, a bird of prey, still you're tearing at my insides, and yesterday when you flew . . . so far away."

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

David Usher looks surly–perhaps he is having *Hallucinations*.

By Usher's own admission, rather than putting forth a specific idea, his lyrics are left open for the listener's own personal interpretations. "Devil By My Side," among others, is an example of that principle. Such a goal is often difficult to achieve, but he appears to be up to the task.

Usher's third solo effort passes the test with flying colours and increases his fans' anticipation for his next musical venture.

A decade of block-rockin' beats

BY GRAHAM STARK

The Chemical Brothers
Singles 93–03
EMI / Virgin

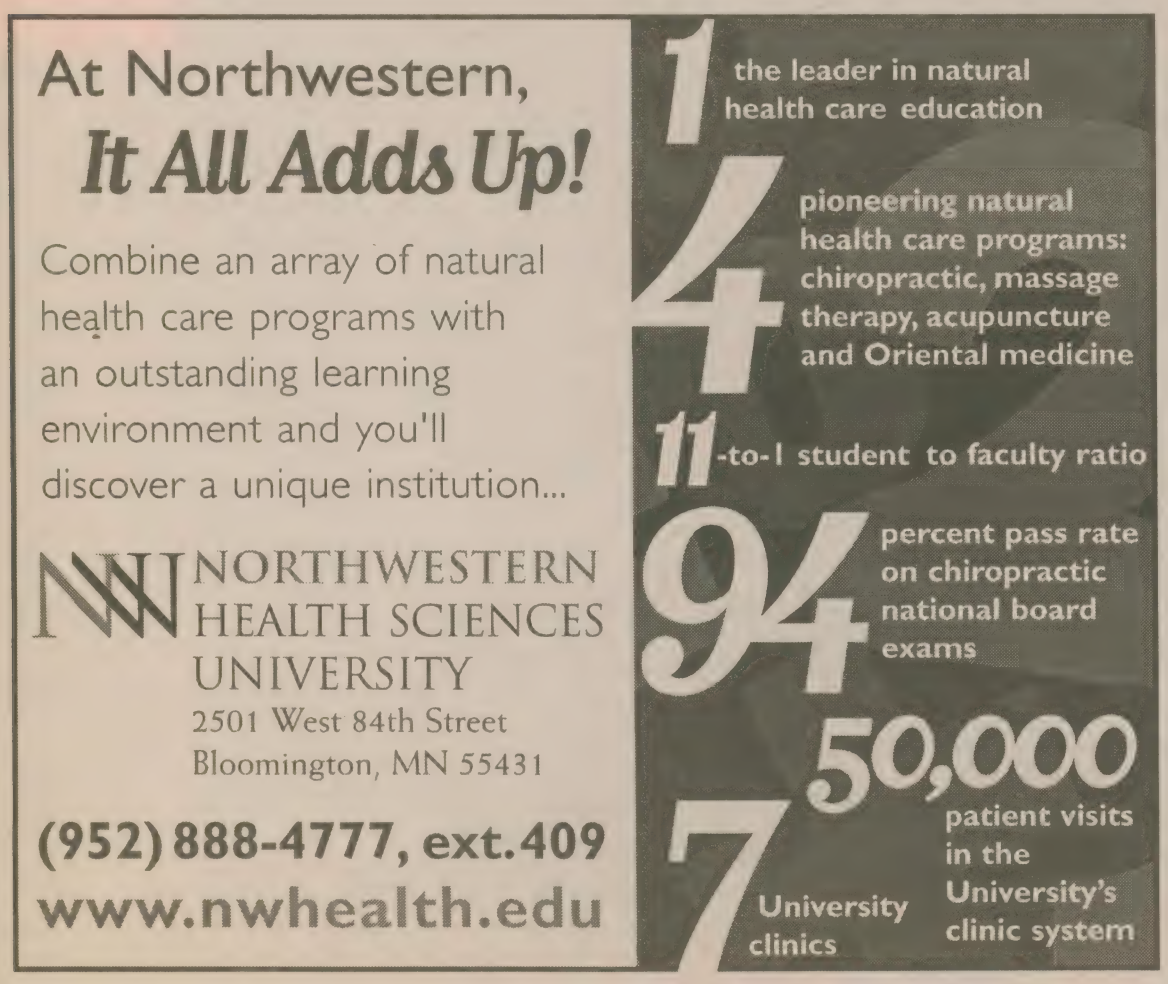
The Chemical Brothers have been rocking the club and big beat circuits for over a decade, and it's time for a look back.

Singles isn't technically a "greatest hits" album, though it might as well be. It's a collection of the singles released from their four previous studio albums and an upcoming release due out sometime this year.

The album begins with "Song To The Siren," "Chemical Beats" and "Leave Home," which are singles from their first release, the 1995 album *Leaving Planet Dust*. Following that are singles from their acclaimed 1997 release *Dig Your Own Hole* which, thanks to the hit song "Block Rockin' Beats," made them a household name in Europe and introduced them to North America.

The songs that really put the British duo on the map this side of the Atlantic were "Out of Control," "Hey Boy Hey Girl," and "Let Forever Be" from the 1999 album *Surrender*. Joining these tracks are "Star Guitar" and "The Test" from 2002's *Come With Us*, the album that proved The Brothers were still in business.

Finally, *Singles* features two tracks from The Chemical Brothers' as yet unnamed new album, including the current singles "Get Yourself High" and "The Golden Path." As with all compilation albums, if you already own their other releases, there's not really much point buying it. However, it's a very solid collection of awesome work and, if you're a fan of what you've heard on the radio, it is definitely worth buying.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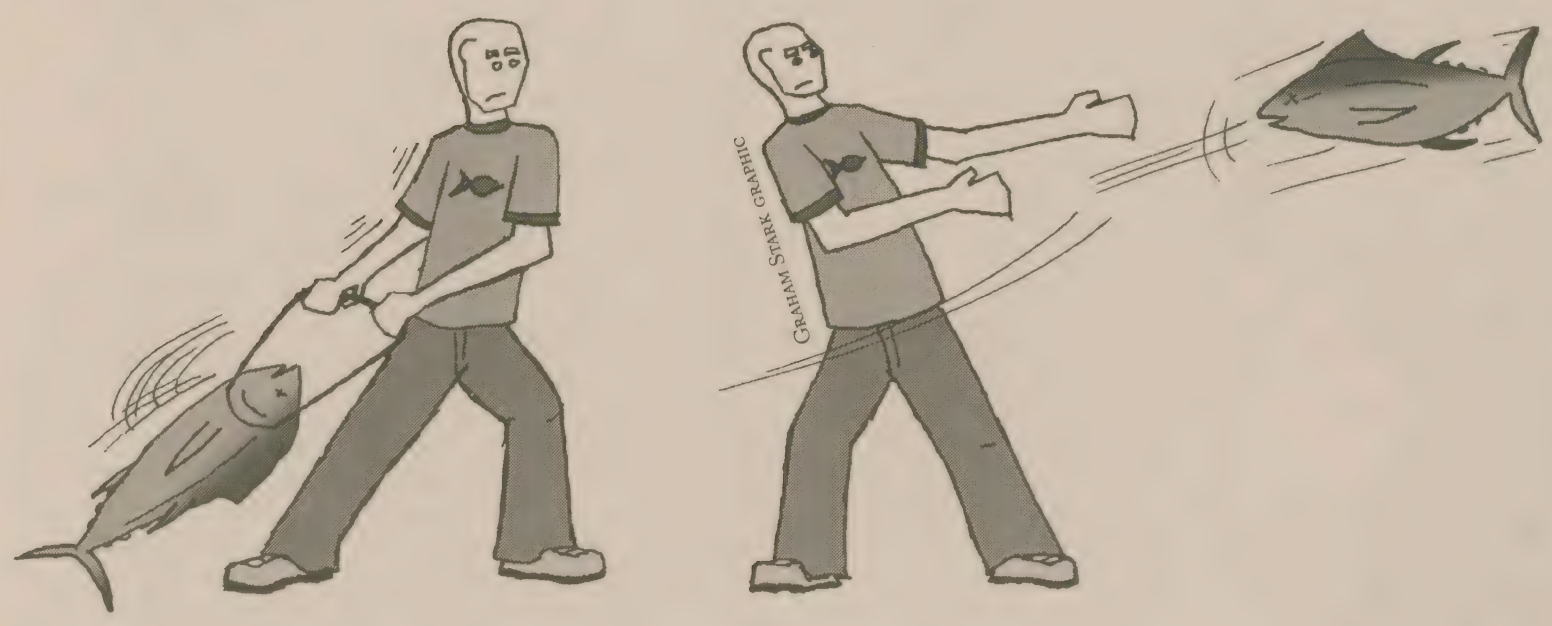

Aussies toss fish for distance

Australians monopolize the glory at the World Tuna Tossing Championships

BY ED BASKERVILLE

Tossing the tuna isn't just slang for masturbation–it's also a popular sport in New Zealand, South Africa and Australia, where the Tuna Tossing world championships were held last Jan. 24 and 25.

Sponsored by the John West seafood company, the tuna toss is the highlight of the annual Tunarama Festival, a celebration of the tuna industry, which takes place over the Australia Day weekend. For the past 43 years, serious tossers have gathered in the South Australian coastal city of Port Lincoln to hurl fish.

For the competition a dead, frozen tuna is attached to a hammer handle by a rope through the gills. Although some use a discus-style swing and let go technique, the best

PROVIDED PHOTO

tosses are done hammer-style, where the tuna is hoisted high above the head and spun lasso-style before the fish is let fly.

Darren Billett, a software engineer from nearby Adelaide, won this year's competition with a throw of 29.78 metres. For Billet it was his fifth straight world title. Thirty-year-old Port Lincoln local Tracey Blacker won the women's crown with a throw of 11.4 metres. Though both winners received $7,000 (Aus.) for their efforts, neither came close to matching the world record throws.

The men's record is held by former Olympic hammer thrower Sean Carlin who, in 1998, threw the fish 37.23 metres, something Billet doesn't think he'll ever match.

"[It will] probably be a few years before someone does." said Billet. "Sean was an Olympic athlete and the best in Australia for quite a long time in the hammer throw,"

A true multi-sport athlete, Carlin won gold medals in the 1990 and 1994 Commonwealth Games for the hammer throw and is also the world record holder in the octopus throw, held annually in Port MacDonnell, Australia.

Fellow Australian and Commonwealth Games hammer thrower Brooke Krueger holds the women's record toss of 21 metres. Prior to this year's games, Krueger had won the title three years in a row.

Competition tunas for both men and women weigh in at approximately 9 kilograms–a full 1.5 kilograms heavier than the official Olympic hammer. Although the world record for the hammer throw is 86.74 metres for men and 76.07 for women, it is important to note that the spherical hammer is far more aerodynamic than a frozen tuna.

Every year over 25,000 spectators, more than double the city's normal population, crowd Port Lincoln to watch tuna tossers become heroes.

The organizers of the tuna toss do not condone the needless wasting of food. Officials say that only spoiled fish, which stores refuse to sell, is used.

If the Super Bowl was in Wisconsin

BY RICHARD WARNICA

If the Super Bowl were about football, they'd play it in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

In the cold, on what was left of a natural grass field after a month of winter. That's where they'd play it if football were a factor. At Lambeau, in front of the last fans to own their own football team. Where the uniforms were green and yellow, and the hats foam-mesh long before that became cool.

But the Super Bowl will never be played in Green Bay. No, the big game will always be south of the Mason-Dixon line. Where cold weather doesn't keep Janet Jackson or Justin Timberlake from performing outdoors at the half-time show.

Of course, if the Super Bowl were about football, halftime would only last 15 minutes anyway. Because letting the players cool down for an hour in the middle of the biggest game of their lives would be absurd, to someone who cared about football.

In fact, if the Super Bowl were about football, the audience would actually be full of people who cared more about Tom Brady's right arm than about Janet Jackson's right breast.

Because if the Super Bowl were about football, tickets wouldn't cost 500 dollars each. And kids who played Tom Brady in their back yards might actually get to see the game when it came to their hometown this year, or maybe the next. Which it would do, if the Super Bowl were about football.

Also, if the Super Bowl had anything to do with football, the trophy for the winning team wouldn't be a stylized silver ball made by Tiffany's. Instead the winner would get a battered metal bowl on a wooden platform. Where every dent, ding and engraved name would remind the winner of why he wanted it in the first place. Not because it meant getting paid a million dollars to say, "I'm going to Disney Land," or a guest spot on Jay Leno. But because he just fulfilled the dreams of 100 million kids.

I don't know why I think that if the Super Bowl were about football everything wrong with sport today would disappear. But I do. And that's why the next Super Bowl I'll watch will be the next one played in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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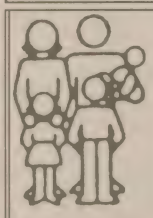

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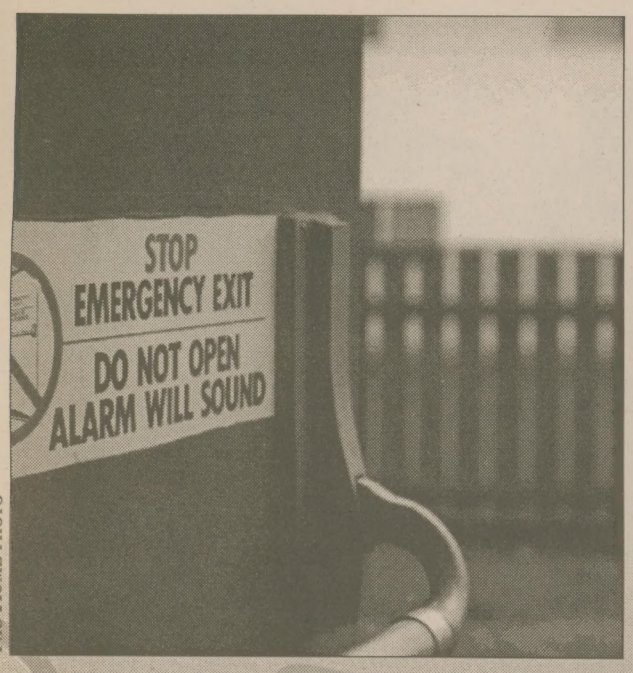
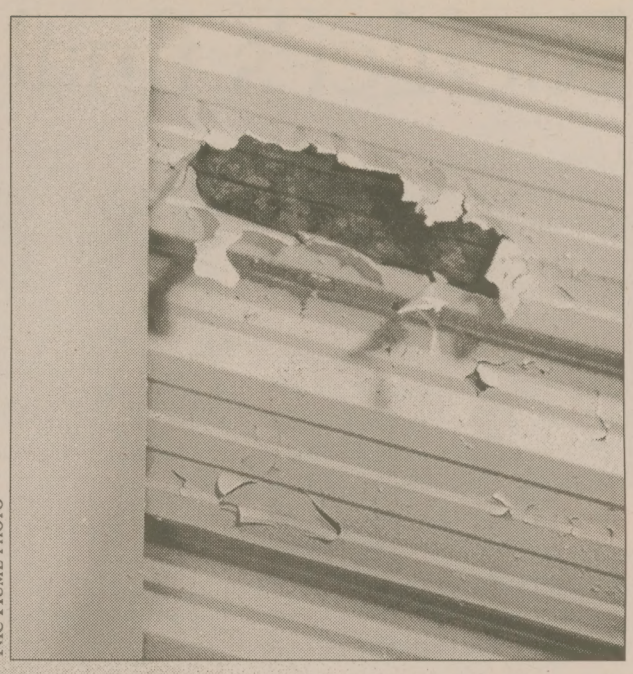


Nic Hume photo

An emergency exit yawns open with no alarm sounding at the Ian Stewart Complex field house.

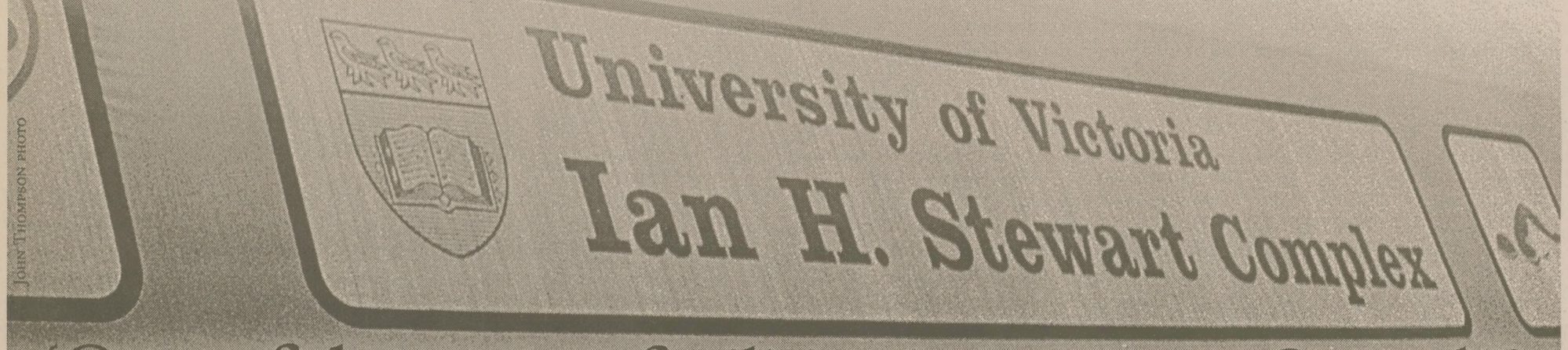
Nic Hume photo

No amount of pushing will open this exit, intramural coordinator Paul Smith demonstrates.



Nic Hume photo

One of many gashes in the field house ceiling.



John Thompson photo

'One of the worst facilities in western Canada'

by Megan Stewart

The Ian Stewart Complex is a geriatric mess that couldn't be sold for parts. Broken and decrepit, the 30-year-old building is not only a place to shoot hoops, stomp gumboots and pump iron–it's also a place athletic relics go to die.

But while the Universities of B.C., Saskatchewan and Calgary have progressive, modern facilities and Simon Fraser in Burnaby is building an Olympic-sized skating oval and a 44,000 square-foot athletic complex, similar changes for UVic are not in the works.

For although athletics officials are almost unanimous in their desire to see a new facility, none are optimistic that the money will be available any time soon.

"Lesser and lesser amounts of money are available from the University and there's just not enough to re-do the entire facility, " said UVic coordinator of recreation Winona Pugh. "But at the same time, we're not serving the students that are here now and if we're not going to offer these services to students, they're going to go somewhere else."

Intramural coordinator Paul Smith, who works in the building, is appalled at its condition. "This is one of the worst facilities in Western Canada," he said. "The average student is getting shafted."

The aging Ian Stewart Complex was built in 1967 as a racket club before a group of volunteers transformed it, piece by piece, into the building it is today.

Cinderblock walls and single-paned windows went up to give the building a uniform outside wall, and three squash courts were converted into a cramped dance studio. Finally, a tennis bubble was replaced with aluminum siding and renamed "the Field House," a thermostat-free gym where students wear eight layers in winter, go naked in summer and get dripped on year round.

The building is long overdue for a major overhaul, and employees at athletics and recreation are eager for more than a slight renovation.

"The current complex lacks in location, security, socializing aspect for students, disability access and family care," said Pugh. "We absolutely need to start planning for a new sports centre on campus."

As it stands now, only one third of the building's 33,000 square feet are considered usable for athletic and recreational purposes. The rest of the space is divvied up between administrative workspace, departmental offices and wide hallways.

"There's been a financial effort made to address the structural and functional problems of the facility and to improve the ancient, ancient equipment," said David Clode, executive director of student auxiliary services. "We have ambitions and we have plans, the issue comes in terms of how we finance changes."

At the moment, improvements to the Field House would cost upwards of one million dollars. Because of frequent flooding from the leaking ceiling, both the floor and the roof need to be replaced. On top of those repairs, the lighting is dim, and the non-existence of a thermostat is questionable.

But the building's poor temperature control is secondary to its main problem: poor safety.

In the event of a fire alarm, several emergency exits in the field house don't open properly. Push, kick or scream at the broken half of one of the doors and you'll still be inside the complex.

Even if you do make it out, to escape the burning building you would have to re-enter the facility near the swimming pool in order to exit from the front door. Use a wheel chair? After having dropped 10 centimetres from the gym floor, you'll be pushing yourself uphill over the grass. Yet despite all this the facility is still not scheduled for replacement.

"ISC has bad design problems for sure," said Clode, "but starting from scratch would present an enormous problem and changes of that magnitude would hardly be worth it."

With no new government money likely, options for financing a new facility are limited. Generous alumni could make a specific donation to recreational services (expressly to the Ian Stewart Complex), or a student referendum could change the fate of a would-be sports centre, but that would mean higher tuition hikes.

While Smith dreams of proper badminton equipment, climbing walls and a complex inside ring road, he'd settle for much less. As a minimum he'd like to see "a splash of school colours" across the bland weight-room wall instead of the dated tacky mural that it currently bears.

For Smith, an updated athletic facility is a long-term investment. "In a number of years these students will be alumni," he said. "We need to create opportunity today so our kids can play and participate and have reasons to be proud of their school."

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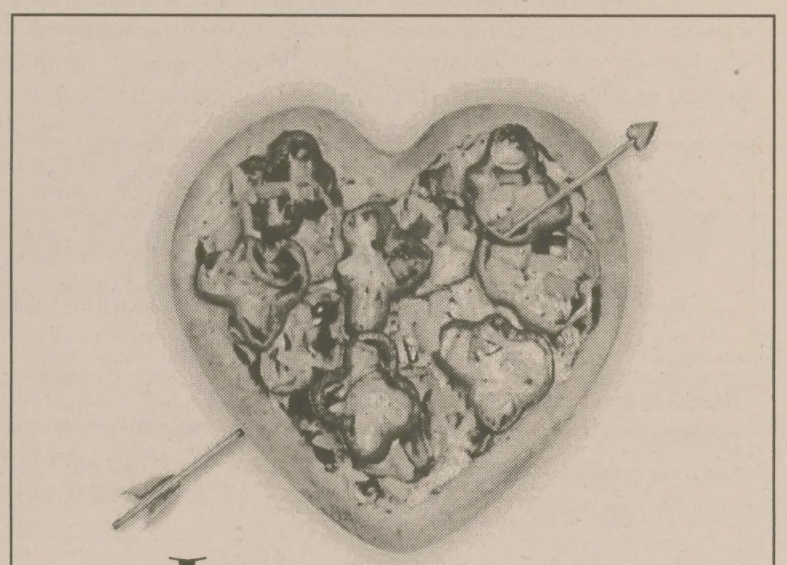

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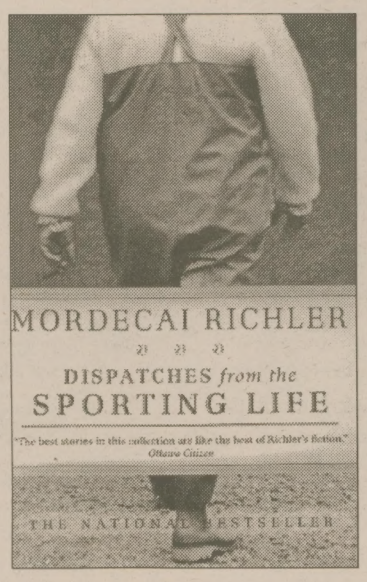
Richler's final score

Mordecai Richler
Dispatches from the Sporting Life
Globe Pequot Press

BY RICHARD WARNICA


MORDECAI RICHLER
DISPATCHES from the
SPORTING LIFE
"The best stories in this collection are like the best of Richler's fiction."
Ottawa Citizen
THE NATIONAL BESTSELLER

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

Sportswriting, as commonly practiced, involves working names and scores around a preset list of clichés.

Players that never shut up become "leaders in the dressing room." Those who do the opposite and never open their mouths are "leaders by example."

Someone whose primary talent is breaking rules and physically damaging others is "playing with heart," while those who play without sacrificing their bodies or defensive responsibility are "finesse" players. The issue is compounded in athlete profiles.

It is not entirely the fault of writers. Anyone who has ever interviewed an athlete knows the difficulty of getting past phrases like "we gave 110 per cent." As a sports fan for over 15 years, I have probably read upwards of 200 profiles of hockey legend Wayne Gretzky. Each described him as some variation of "polite," "unassuming" or "down to earth."

The lone exception to this troop of the hackneyed and boring is Mordecai Richler's essay, "Gretzky in Eighty-five," first published in *GQ* and now reprinted in *Dispatches from the Sporting Life*. In it Richler muses that number 99 was "nice, very nice, but incapable of genuine wit or irreverence" and later describes him as "one of the most boring men" he'd ever met.

Richler goes on to deconstruct the myths of other sport legends including the now infamous Pete Rose. Long before gambling scandals would forever tarnish the all-time hit leader's reputation, Richler paints a portrait of an aging jock obsessed with his own myth and the records required to solidify it. Richler does this without cruelty or malevolence, but with genuine wit and irreverence, the very qualities he found lacking in Gretzky.

Published after his death from kidney cancer in 2001, *Dispatches* stands as a tribute to Richler's twin obsessions, sport and the written word. Anyone who fancies themself a sportswriter should read this book.

In topics as diverse as salmon fishing in Scotland, Jews in sport or the little known Canadian welterweight boxer Maxie Berger, Richler achieves what to some must seem the impossible: brilliant, original writing about sport. Throughout, the banal and the trite are discarded in favor of endless irony, introspection and humour.

Dispatches is a textbook on how to mix passion and originality in writing about something you love. And if one thing is clear, it is that Richler loves sport.

For him sport was his religion as a child. In *Dispatches* we watch as Richler questions his faith, rages against those who would corrupt it and in the end, despite it all, remains a devout believer, doomed to spend his Saturday nights worshipping at the shrine of *Hockey Night in Canada*.

If there is a downfall it is in Richler's tendency to muse tangentially on his own childhood, regardless of the topic. A compendium on the birth of baseball in Montreal veers off for several pages into a narrative on the politics of the Jewish slum of Richler's childhood.

If his constant insertion of himself into the narrative is a weakness, it is also his greatest strength. Richler's distinctive voice is what makes *Dispatches* a treat to read. If the retirement of Gordie Howe has to be interrupted by 500 words on the hockey preferences of the inhabitants of kosher delis, then so be it.

Dispatches from the Sporting Life is as good as anything Richler ever wrote. As any form of writing it triumphs, as sports writing *Dispatches* is unique. No other writer in sport avoided the pitfalls of cliché and caricature like Richler.

Sports fans will treasure it. Richler fans will revel in it.

Buzzuh Beatah, owww!

NIC HUME PHOTO

Vikes guard Eric Rushton dribbles around Peter Wauthy of the UBC Thunderbirds in a game last Saturday night. The Vikes won the game 62-61 after UBC failed to convert a last second shot.

Sports briefs

Trackstravaganza in Winnipeg

The Vikes men's track team had a number of impressive finishes last weekend at the Cragill Track and Field and Extravaganza, held indoors at the Max Bell centre at the University of Winnipeg. Third-year runners Scott Kennedy and Glen Saqui came second and third respectively in the 800-metre free run, before helping the UVic team to a second-place finish in the four-by-800-metre relay. Fourth-year runner Craig Babiuk took silver in the 1,000-metre free run.

For the women, top finishers included Nancy Fedoruk and Leah Burley's fourth- and sixth-place finishes in the 1,000-metre free run, and Wendy Hurdle's fifth place in the 1,500 metre. The UVic "A" team finished fourth in the 4-by-800-metre relay.

Triple dose of Rugby fever

After going nearly two months without action, the Vikes women's rugby team played three times in just seven days last week, with a single win in the mid-week game book-ended by loses on the weekend.

On Saturday Jan. 24 the Vikes lost to UBC 12–5 in Vancouver.

The following Wednesday, the Vikes met fellow basement dwellers James Bay in a battle to avoid last place in the B.C. women's premiere division. The Vikes dominated, in a 27–17 victory.

The Vikes finished the week against the undefeated Clan from SFU. The women from Burnaby were too much for the Vikes on this day, winning 17–5.

The loss brought the Vikes record to 2–7–2, good enough for a seventh place tie with UBC.

Championship banner raised

The B.C. premiere league champion UVic men's rugby team were honoured last Friday night when the banner celebrating their achievement was raised in MacKinnon gym. The ceremony took place during the half-time of the men's basketball game against UBC.

Vikes Alumni honoured

UVic celebrated the men's basketball stars Robbie Parris and Eli Pasquale on Saturday night by raising their retired jersey numbers to the rafters of MacKinnon gym.

Parris and Pasquale are the only two Vikes athletes to have had their jerseys retired by the school.

Parris was a member of the Vikes from 1974 to 1979 and was known for his leadership and incredible drive to the hoop.

Pasquale was a member of the Vikes from 1979 to 1984 and played on 5 consecutive National Championship teams. His exceptional play carried him on to the National Team where he represented Canada for 15 years.

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On campus

People, Poverty & God: a Christian discussion group which explores the connection between faith and social issues. Every Monday at the interfaith chaplaincy (beside the bookstore) at 2:30 p.m. Come and discuss. For more info contact April, aprilg@uvic.ca

Interested in gaining RESEARCH EXPERIENCE? Applied student research training projects that focus on child and adolescent health and well-being are now available. Projects are submitted by community agencies. Students complete research projects for experience, course credit and a $200 stipend. Please contact Leah Wilson at cormrc@uvic.ca or 721-7843.
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Volunteers wanted to act as conversation partners and activity leaders for international students. If interested, please send résumé or personal statement to cathy@cdncollege.bc.ca or fax 383-2292.

Announcements

The Victoria Shakespheare Society will be holding auditions for the summer festival's performances of As You Like It directed by Libby Mason and Love's Labour's Lost directed by Chris Moss March 20 and 21. Auditions by appointment only 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Contact Denise at 995-5958 or email theatrepeople@hotmail.com to book an audition. All auditions will be held in room A169 MacLaurin Building, UVic. Bring résumé and headshot and prepare one song (bring sheet music) and two contrasting Shakespheare monologues. If interested in backstage/crew positions, please specify when booking appointment.

Quality of Life Awards, 2004. We're gathering stories of people working together in the CRD to enhance our quality of life. Share ways you are involved in your community – through work, volunteering, sports, arts, school. Submissions received by March 26 will be considered for 2004 award. Stories published at qolchallenge.ca/connections/connection_stories.html. For more information: info@communitycouncil.ca or 383-6166.

The Senate Committee on the University Budget's 2003 Report and Summary of the Student Survey on barriers to Completion, as approved at the Jan. 9, 2004 Senate meeting, are available for viewing at the office of the University Secretary's website – web.uvic.ca/univsec/

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Activist Video Night honours Black History Month by showing "Martin Luther King, Jr.," the life, times and assasination (by the FBI?) of a hero of Black America's 1960s civil rights struggle, 7:00 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, Camosun College (Lansdowne Campus), Fisher Building Theatre, room 100, FREE. Info. 595-3991.

GOT SOME EXTRA TIME to help someone kickstart an active lifestyle for the New Year? At Recreation Integration Victoria (RIV) we facilitate active lifestyles for people with disabilities. Here's your chance to get active and spend time with someone who enjoys the same activities you do. RIV is looking for volunteers to provide one-to-one assistance for people with disabilities who would like to participate in a variety of recreational activities. To get involved or for more information, please call Dustin: 477-6314

IVCF Lecture Series
Paul Chamberlain will be speaking on: "Isn't Christianity anti-gay?", "Religious plurism," and "Can we be good without God?"
Feb. 12 @ 7 p.m. HSD A240/ Feb. 13 @ 2:30 p.m. DSB C112 and 7 p.m. CIT 105

GROOVEFEST is a fun and fabulous fundraising event for people of all sizes, shapes, colours, abilities, genders, and sexualities. It is a high energy anti-fashion, outlaw culture, and radical variety show that celebrates beauty(s), diversity(s), sexuality(s), and resistance(s). GROOVEFEST will be held on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2004 in Vertigo in the Student Union Building (SUB). Tickets are available in advance at the SUB info. booth, Kiss and Tell, and Ditch Records. For more info, contact groovefest@riseup.net or 721-8353

Volunteers

Only the top 12 applicants will be accepted to provide support and information as volunteers on our sexual assualt team. Training starts Feb 24th. Contact Tracey at the Women's Sexual Assault Centre 383-5545 or volunteers@vwsac.com.

For sale

Kosher Lunch at UVic??? Call 884-3244
You Order – We Deliver!
Salami Sandwiches every day for $3.00.

1992 Plymouth Laser. Excellent condition inside and out. Runs great $5,000 obo. For more info or to view the vehicle call 812-6569.

For free

FREE: Large, slightly faded couch and chair. Great for student. Call for details 477-8427. 1655 Barksdale Dr.

For hire

Break the Language Barrier!
ESL/English language coach available for individual or group lessons. Practice the art of conversation in a comfortable setting. Develop essay-writing and editing skills before exams. Highly qualified instructor with experience in multicultural and overseas teaching experience (BA Hons., LL.B). Very reasonable rates and flexible class schedules. Classes starting soon. Please call 478-4526 or e-mail eisabel@telus.net.

ROOF INSPECTIONS
Repairs re-roof/demoss
Gutter inspection repair/replace
380-5685

Hey you!

Sure I'm a geek. But I make up for it with my vast incalculable wisdom. Like Spock! He he (snort) he he!

Do you have stairs in your house? If you are protected, don't forget to come out to late night pool on Saturday. Check out the thread in the goonmeet forum. This message brought to you by Echo Video.

Hey coffee-boy, you put the zip in things when my decaf desperately lacks. Want to play?

Hey you! You know you want me. You dream about me at night and fantasize about me by day. Remember that none but the brave deserve the fair.

Gilbert Pinkledorff, who are you? –GS

Hey you with the Handy Dart bus. What are you doing? Trying to drum up business? SLOW DOWN.

Billboard Rates:

Students and Clubs – $2/issue
Non-Students – $2/line
Businesses – $5.50/line for first 3 lines
+ $2/extra line
hey you! – free

on the spot

Analyzed by Graham Stark and Vanessa Neuman

Today's Question: **What do you see in our ink blot of doom?**

Joanna Groves
UVSS, Director of Finance
Scott Payne
UVSS, Director of Services

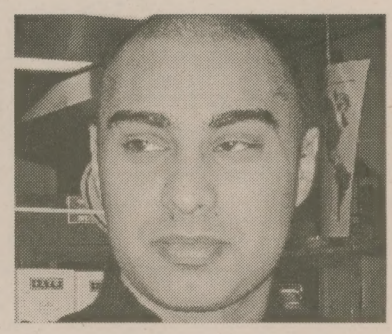
SP: I'll answer the question, but I'm not getting up.
GS: Okay, what do you see here?
SP: Night sky.
JG: Two Michelin men, making love, under the ocean.
SP: Wow, her's is way better than mine.

Sabrina Lloyd
James Grant
Phil Smith

JG: Two eskimos making out.
PS: I see exorbitantly high tuition fees. Is that "*Martlet*" enough for you?
SL: I don't know what I see.
(Vanessa turns the picture)
PS: Oh! They look like . . . belly bouncing sumos!
SL: Yeah, sumo wrestlers.
PS: With musical notes.

Cadegan & Katie K
"The Bonanza Sisters"

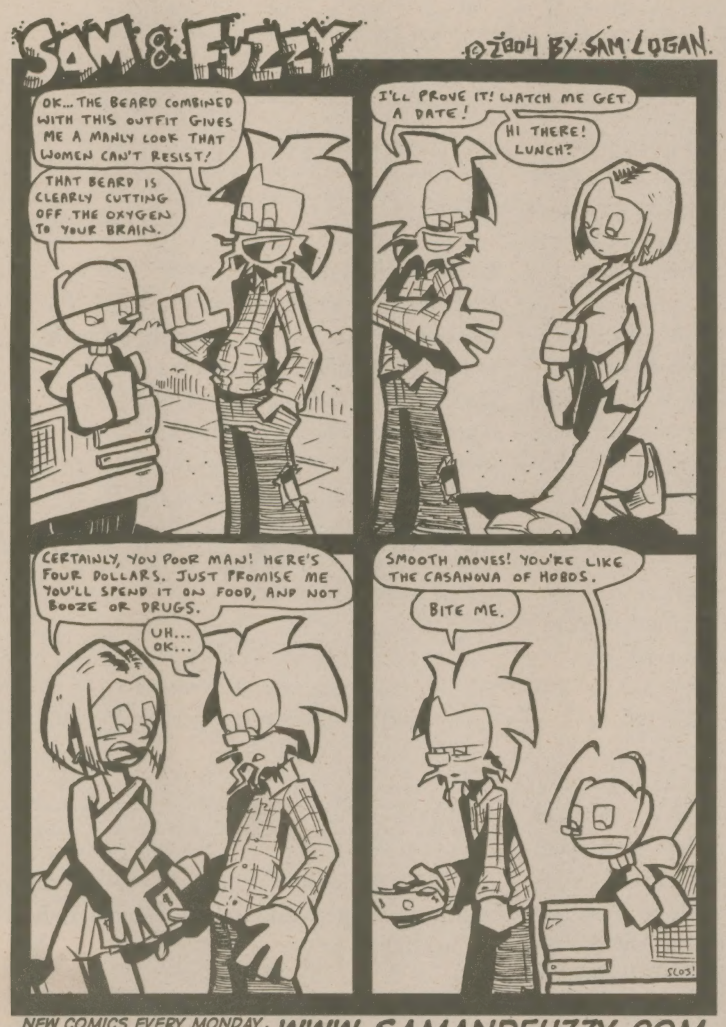
C : Wow! Sheep mating.
(Vanessa turns the picture)
C : Now it's reindeer mating.
KK: It's sumo wrestlers, kissing and touching bellies.
C : And there's music notes . . .
(Vanessa turns the picture again)
C: Now it's a pelvis . . . wait! A moose looking at his reflection! A reflexive moose!
Both: Forest porn!

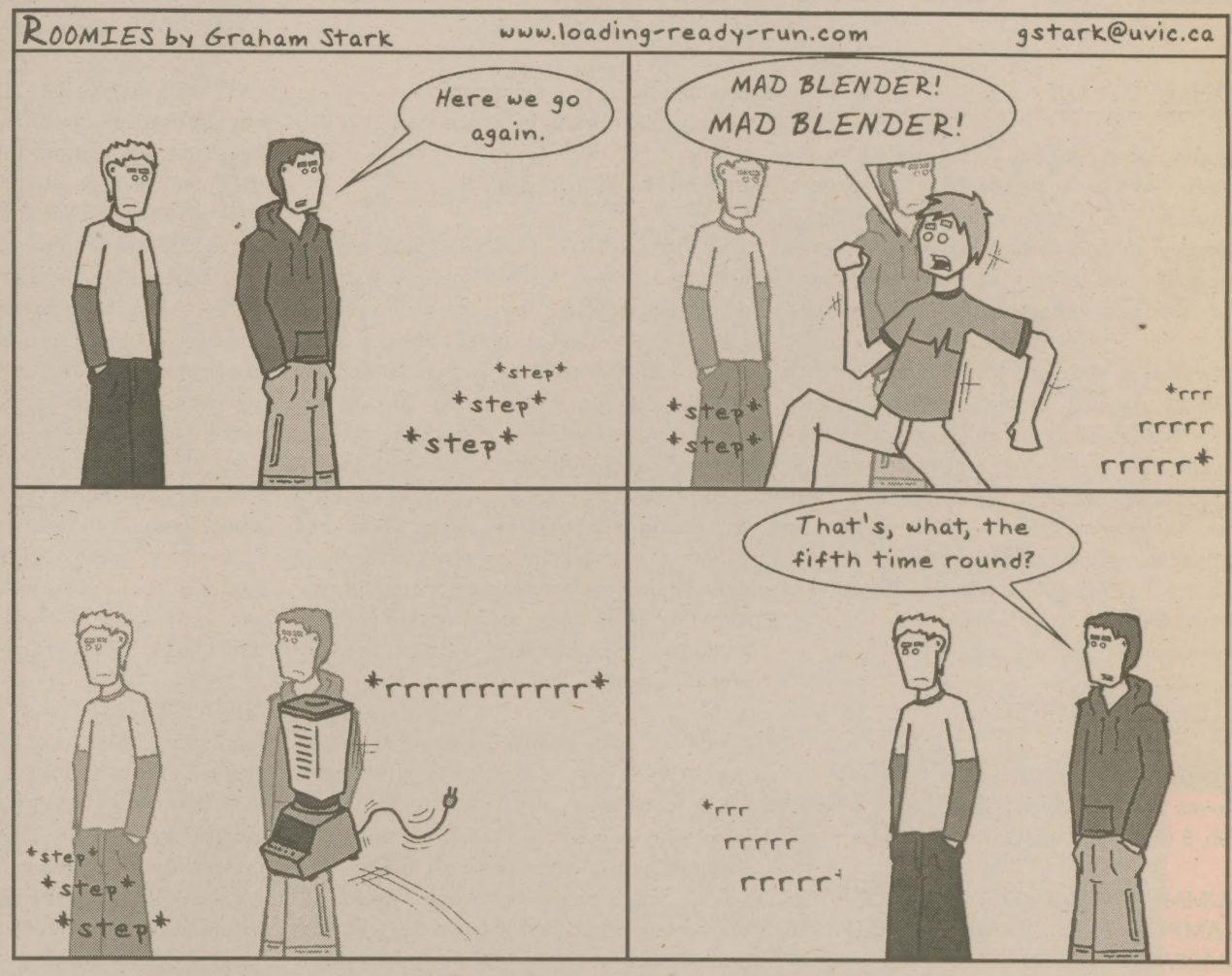


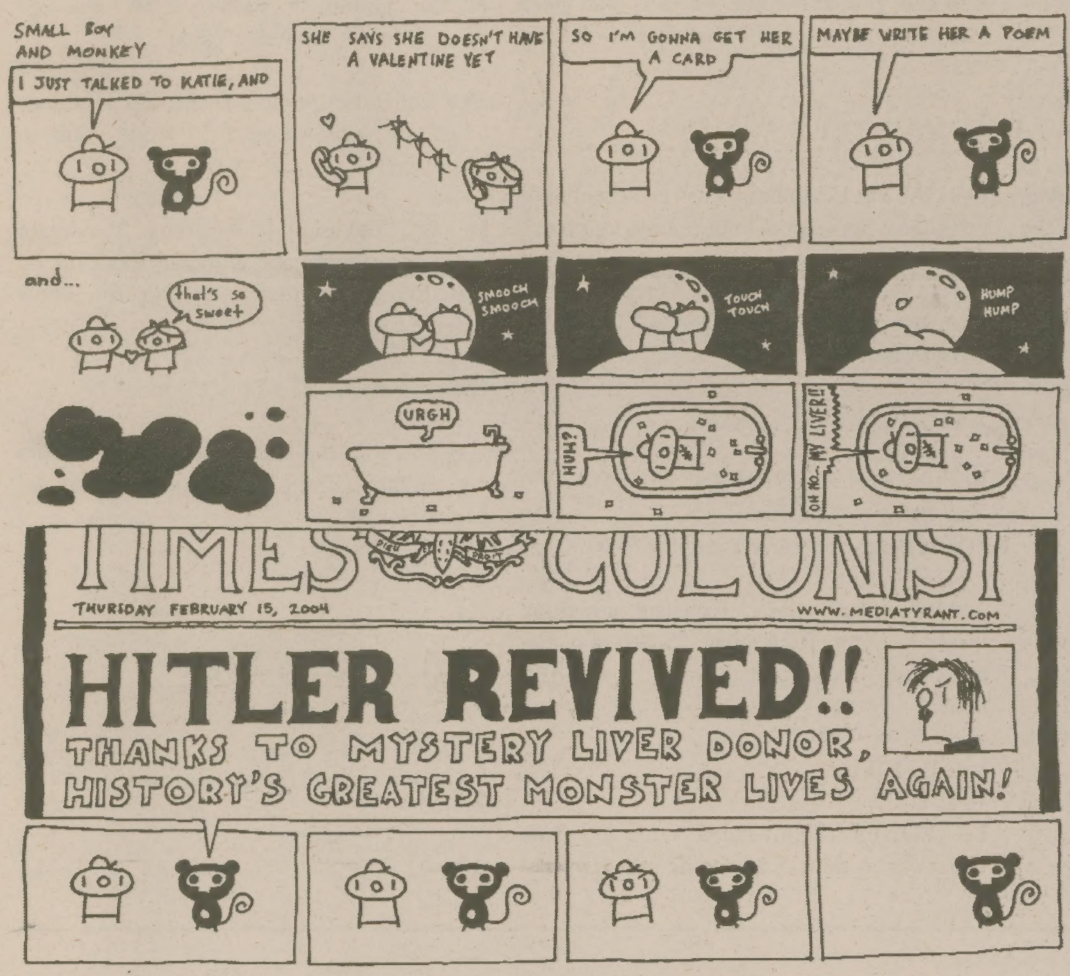
Tarn Dhillon

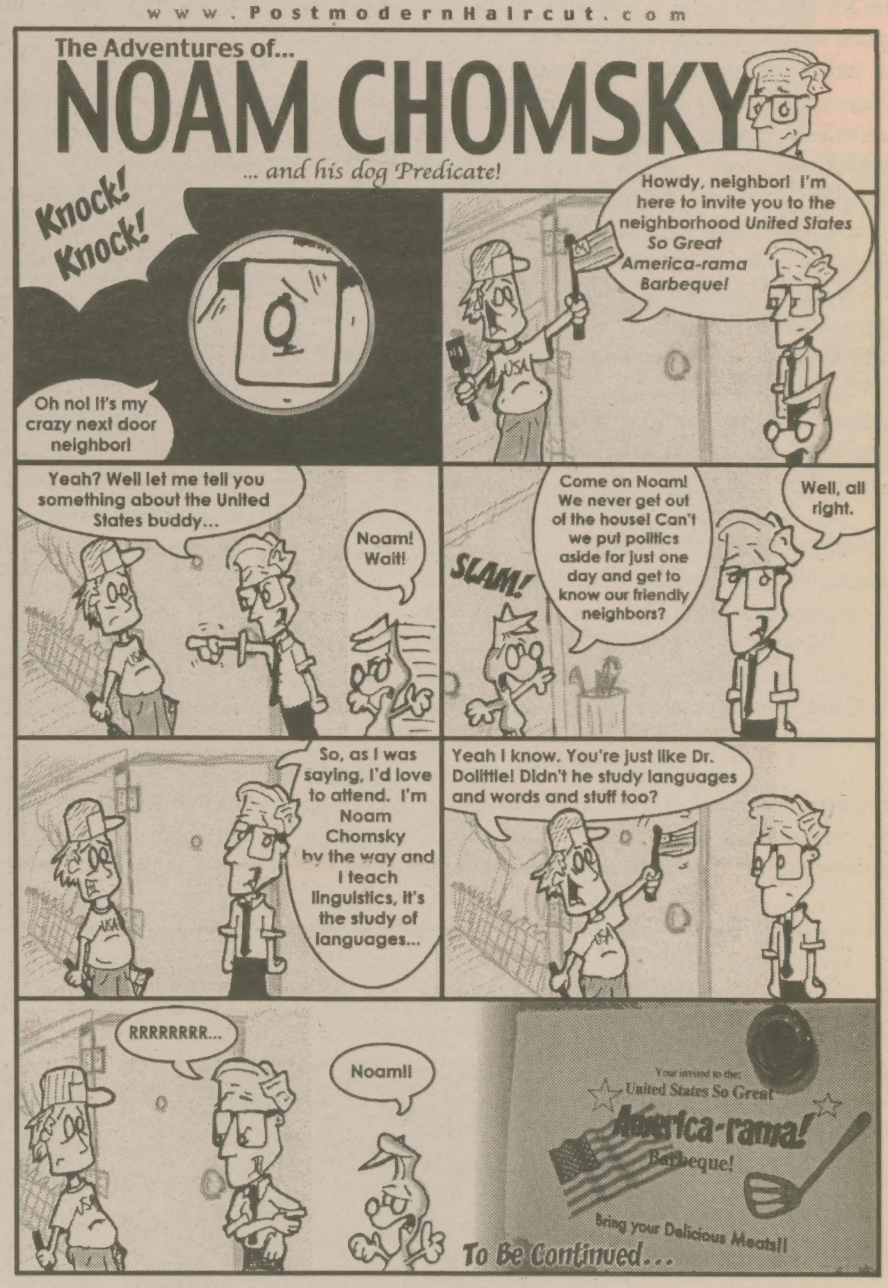
TD: Two rabbits making out.
GS: Well, that was quick.
TD: *(to* Bean There! *employee)* What do you see?
BT: A sheep on a pond. If you turn it sideways.

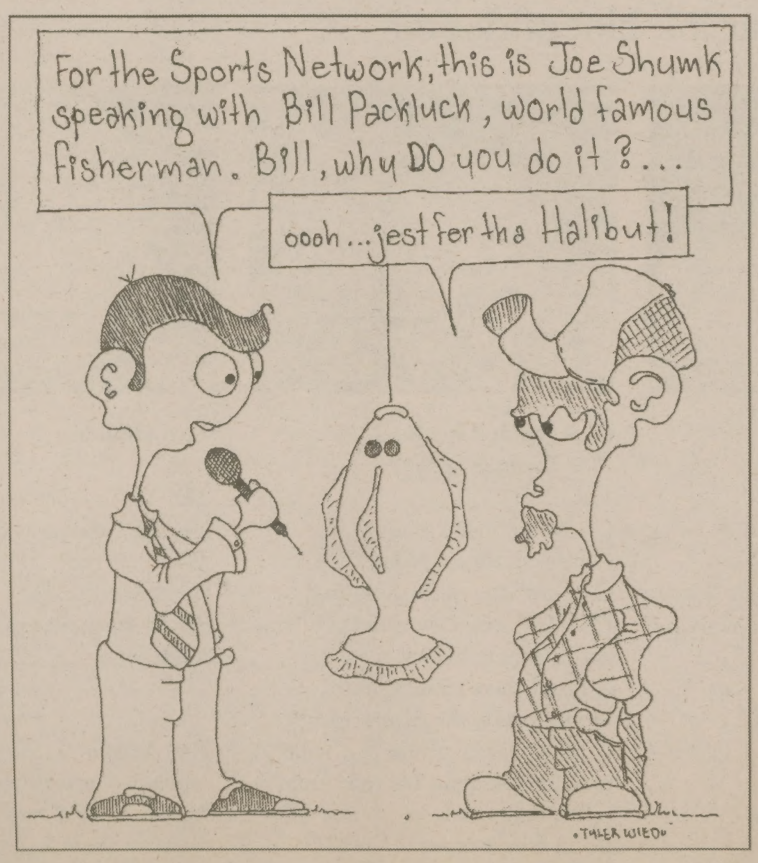
The Martlet *is far too tired and unqualified to make any psychological analysis on these responses. But if we did, they would be very dirty.*


SAM & FUZZY
©2004 BY SAM LOGAN
OK... THE BEARD COMBINED WITH THIS OUTFIT GIVES ME A MANLY LOOK THAT WOMEN CAN'T RESIST!
THAT BEARD IS CLEARLY CUTTING OFF THE OXYGEN TO YOUR BRAIN.
I'LL PROVE IT! WATCH ME GET A DATE!
HI THERE! LUNCH?
CERTAINLY, YOU POOR MAN! HERE'S FOUR DOLLARS. JUST PROMISE ME YOU'LL SPEND IT ON FOOD, AND NOT BOOZE OR DRUGS.
UH... OK...
SMOOTH MOVES! YOU'RE LIKE THE CASANOVA OF HOBOS.
BITE ME.
NEW COMICS EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT: WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM


ROOMIES by Graham Stark
www.loading-ready-run.com
gstark@uvic.ca
Here we go again.
step
step
step
MAD BLENDER!
MAD BLENDER!
step
step
*rrr
rrrrr
rrrrr*
step
step
step
rrrrrrrrrrr
That's, what, the fifth time round?
*rrr
rrrrr
rrrrr*


SMALL BOY AND MONKEY
I JUST TALKED TO KATIE, AND
and...
that's so sweet
SHE SAYS SHE DOESN'T HAVE A VALENTINE YET
SO I'M GONNA GET HER A CARD
MAYBE WRITE HER A POEM
SMOOCH SMOOCH
TOUCH TOUCH
HUMP HUMP
URGH
HUH?
OH NO... MY LIVER!!
TIMES COLONIST
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2004
WWW.MEDIATYRANT.COM
HITLER REVIVED!!
THANKS TO MYSTERY LIVER DONOR, HISTORY'S GREATEST MONSTER LIVES AGAIN!


www.PostmodernHaircut.com
The Adventures of...
NOAM CHOMSKY
... and his dog Predicate!
Knock! Knock!
Oh no! It's my crazy next door neighbor!
Howdy, neighbor! I'm here to invite you to the neighborhood United States So Great America-rama Barbeque!
Yeah? Well let me tell you something about the United States buddy...
Noam! Wait!
SLAM!
Come on Noam! We never get out of the house! Can't we put politics aside for just one day and get to know our friendly neighbors?
Well, all right.
So, as I was saying, I'd love to attend. I'm Noam Chomsky by the way and I teach linguistics, it's the study of languages...
Yeah I know. You're just like Dr. Dolittle! Didn't he study languages and words and stuff too?
RRRRRRRR...
Noam!!
Your invited to the United States So Great America-rama! Barbeque!
Bring your Delicious Meats!!
To Be Continued...


For the Sports Network, this is Joe Shumk speaking with Bill Packluck, world famous fisherman. Bill, why DO you do it?...
oooh...jest fer tha Halibut!
©TYLER WIED

DRAW TASTY COMICS
SUBMIT THEM TO THE MARTLET
PHOTO@MARTLET.CA